

to do.’³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Minister: This is the Word of God.

Congregants: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

“THE UNTAMED GOD”

Russ Merritt

*HYMN 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, Who created the world and all that is in it.

We believe that God gave His uniquely begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for the redemption for this world from sin and bondage, so that all who trust and follow him will find new and abundant life.

We believe that Christ's presence is with us now, through his Holy Spirit, alive and active in the world, calling us to repentance and leading us to deeds of compassion and healing, grace and justice.

We believe God intends us to use our minds and hearts, our energy and our resources, in the service of His Kingdom, breaking down walls and building bridges where there are divisions, and offering new hope and joy to all needing His good news.

We believe God loves us, and seeks to love the world through us, and that our true happiness is to give our lives in His service. Amen!

THE OFFERTORY *God is Calling through the Whisper* Hymn 410

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 536

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

*February Fourth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Eighteen*

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 147: 1-11; I Corinthians 9:16-23

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN HYMN 662

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light; Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 147)

Minister: It is good to sing praises to our God,

Who is gracious to His people.

**Congregants: Great is the Lord, and abundant in power,
Whose mercy is beyond understanding.**

Minister: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving, give praise to our God forever.

**Congregants: He smiles on those who hold Him in awe
and live in His steadfast love.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

Great God of the universe,

You set the stars on their course in the heavens.

The earth radiates Your glory and honor.

The rain never falls and the sun does not shine

without Your guidance and plan.

The fields produce their harvest according to Your design.

We stand in awe before Your wisdom and Your reign,

and we bow down in adoration at how You care for us all.

We gather gladly to herald Your presence

and to praise Your acts of goodwill.

Be with us now in worship,

through Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

* HYMN 664 *Morning Has Broken*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, we confess
that we are broken, sinful creatures.**

We trust in our own power

when You have promised to be our sole strength.

We exploit the poor and weak and vulnerable

when You have promised to bring them salvation.

We do not give You our time or talents or energy,

when You have given us Your all.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Teach us to rely on You alone

and to give ourselves in Your service for others,

for the sake of Your good news.

Hear these our silent prayers.

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)

Our help is in God alone. As Scripture tells us:

"It is God Who justifies...It is Christ Jesus who died,

yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us

from the love of Christ?!"

Know this--as we confess our sin, God is just.

Through Christ, we have assurance that God forgives us.

Praise His holy name!

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS 673 (V. 1) *Jesus, Light of Joy* (Insert)

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM *I Will Come to You (You are Mine)* Hymn 177 (Insert)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE / CHILDRE LEAVE FOR JP'S

THE SECOND LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' ³⁸ He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory
of Monty Plymale by Sarah and Justin Plymale*

Ushers

Emily Allen, Matt Graybill, Greg Theimer, Ray Williams

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Russ Merritt, Transitional Minister Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary Lauren Godsey, Nursery Attendant

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Betty Dixon	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Lois Hopkins
Rose Howard	Jim Maile	Floyd Moretz
Jenny Nabywaniec	Jace Newman	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Ruth St. Cyr
Frances Stevens	Jo Ann Threlkeld	George Wingeier
Shirley Wynn		

Friends and Family

Mike Duckworth-(Holly Woodson's brother-in-law)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Class of 2018: Dana Esworthy, Barry Ferrell, Jyke Jones, Stan Lanford, Ann Pace

Class of 2019: Margie Cundiff, John Kabana, Allen Kling, Sarah Plymale, Holly Woodson

Class of 2020: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Lynn Kirby, Bob Newman, Dave Snider

ANTHEM *I Will Come to You (You are Mine)* Hymn 177

I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.

You will hear My voice; I claim you as My choice. Be still, and know I am here.

Refrain:

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.

Come and follow Me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in Me. (Refrain)

I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know My name. (Refrain)

I am the Word that leads all to freedom I am the peace the world cannot give I will call your name, embracing all your pain Stand up, now, walk, and live! (Refrain)