

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON "I WAS THERE: JUDAS" Russ Merritt

*HYMN 228 (Verses One and Five) *Were You There*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

**We believe in one true and living God.
We acknowledge one God alone,
Whose demands on us are absolute,
Whose help for us is sufficient.
That One is the Lord,
Whom we worship, serve, and love.
God is greater than our understanding.
We do not fully comprehend
Who God is or how He works.
His reality far exceeds all that our words can say.
The Lord's requirements are not always
what we think is best.
The Lord's care for us is not always what we want.
God comes to us on His own terms,
and is able to do far more than we ask or think.
We praise and enjoy God.
To worship Him is the highest joy,
and to serve Him is perfect freedom.
Praise be to God!**

THE OFFERTORY *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* Hymn 182

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 223 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

If standing is difficult, please remain seated. Larger print bulletins are available.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*March Eighteenth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Eighteen*

Fifth Sunday in Lent

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10

(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 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty days

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Generous God, Bringer of justice,

You are the Source of our truth.

Congregants: Gathering God, Lover of courage,

You are the Source of our strength.

Minister: Glorious God, Light of the nations,

You are the Source of our joy.

Congregants: Gracious God, Promise of eternity,

You are the Source of our hope.

Minister: Come, let us worship the Almighty God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

Our heavenly Father, Rock of Ages, incarnate Love,

You are the only source of life and goodness.

**Before the very beginnings,
You breathed upon the chaos
and Your Spirit drew forth the whole world in creation.
At the last, after our time ends,
You shall breath again, and gather us
into the shelter and mystery
of Your love and Your mercy and Your providence.
We praise You for the certainty
that we are Yours in life and death and even beyond,
and that we are always sustained in Your strength.
Be with us now, and fill our hearts with praise.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN 829 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

Minister: Gracious One, Holy One, all-knowing and all-loving,
In Jesus our Christ You came among us
to save us from sin and death, misery and brokenness.
In walking to the Cross, Christ freed us from bondage.
We come before You now, seeking grace freely given.

Congregants: Grant us Your grace, O God, and forgive us.

Minister: When we hear and obey the voices of this world
rather than turning to You for guidance and direction...

Congregants: Grant us Your grace, O God, and forgive us.

Minister: When we critically judge and exclude others
without wanting to look at or admit our own shortcomings...

Congregants: Grant us Your grace, O God, and forgive us.

Minister: When we fail to love any of Your people
due to our own prejudices and fear and self-interest...

Congregants: Grant us Your grace, O God, and forgive us.

Minister: When by our words or deeds we try to limit
the amazing scope of Your mercy and salvation...

Congregants: Grant us Your grace, o God, and forgive us.

Minister: In Christ, redeem us, and cleanse us of our sins.
Hear these our silent prayers.

(Worshippers will share their private prayers with God.)

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Minister: Brothers and sisters, believe in the Gospel,
which is the Good News for our lives!

Congregants: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All praise to the God of grace and glory!

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS HYMN 468 *In My Life*

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified; In my life, Lord, be glorified today

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD Psalm 51:1-12

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement. ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

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

Near the Cross

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

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

THE SECOND LESSON FROM GOD'S WORD Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, 'What will you give me if I betray him to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' ⁴⁹At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Minister: May God through His Holy Spirit bless our hearing and reflecting on this reading, for this is His holy Word.

Congregants: Thanks be to God!

Ushers

Emily Allen, John and Lee Ann Kabana, Bob Newman

Acolytes

Maggie Graybill, Audrey Hayes

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
Holly Woodson	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