

GATHERING HYMNS

sung by the Choir (The congregation is welcome to join in)

678 *Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight*

842 *The Lord Is My Light*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 116

Liturgist: I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice
and my cries.

**Congregants: He has inclined his ear to me, and I will call on
him as long as I live.**

Liturgist: What shall I return to the LORD for his blessings to
me?

**Congregants: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the sight of all
of his people.**

Liturgist: Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his
faithful ones.

**Congregants: We will pay our vows to the LORD in the courts
of his house**

Liturgist: Join me as we worship the LORD.

***HYMN 227** *Jesus, Remember Me*

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus,
remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

*THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Liturgist: Merciful God, we have not loved you with all our
heart and mind and strength and soul.

Congregants: Lord, have mercy.

Liturgist: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Congregants: Christ, have mercy.

Liturgist: We are indifferent to the saving grace of Your Word
and Life.

Congregants: Lord, have mercy.

Liturgist: Forgive and heal us by Your steadfast love made
known to us in the passion, death, and resurrection
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

***HYMN 471** *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call,
answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Liturgist: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive
one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be
with you all.

Congregants: And also with you.

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12: 1-14

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

ANTHEM

All in the April Evening

Hugh Robertson

*All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
The sheep with their little lambs
Pass'd me by on the road.*

*The sheep with their little lambs
Pass'd me by on the road;
All in an April evening
I thought on the Lamb of God.*

*The lambs were weary, and crying
With a weak human cry;
I thought on the Lamb of God
Going meekly to die.*

*Up in the blue, blue mountains
Dewy pastures are sweet:
Rest for the little bodies,
Rest for the little feet.*

*But for the Lamb of God
Up on the hill-top green;
Only a cross of shame
Two stark crosses between.*

*All in the April evening,
April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs,
And thought on the Lamb of God.*

THE SECOND LESSON

First Corinthians 11: 23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread,²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE THIRD LESSON

John 15:1-10

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

HYMN 205 *Live in Charity*

Live in charity and steadfast love, Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

THE MESSAGE Dr. Russ Merritt

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(The Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table
Prayer of Thanksgiving / 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.

Words of Institution
Distribution of the Elements
Hymn 527 *Eat This Bread*
Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer after Communion

HYMN 204 *Stay with Me*
Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.

THE STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

(After the Stripping, all depart in silence. There is no benediction)

*Indicates the People Standing

A note about the music in this evening's service: The hymns are from the Taize community, a village in Burgundy, an ecumenical community.

“Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly.”

Communion Servers
Frankie Bielawski Sarah Godsey

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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	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	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

None other Lamb, none other name, none other hope in heaven or earth or sea, none other hiding place from guilt and shame, none beside thee. My faith burns low, my hope burns low; only my heart's desire cries out in me, by the deep thunder of its want and woe cries out to thee. Lord, thou art life, though I be dead; love's fire thou art, however cold I be. Nor heaven have I, nor place to lay my head, nor home, but thee.

(lyrics from "None Other Lamb", a communion anthem by Craig Courtney)

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

***March Twenty Ninth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen***

Maundy Thursday

