

NPC Celebration of Worship
April 14th, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Prelude

Call to Worship - *(responsively)*

One: There is silence,

All: and there is light.

One: There is music,

All: and there is grace.

One: There are people,

All: and there is life.

One: There is hope,

All: and there is Holy.

Let us worship well today.

† Hymn #401 *(Glory To God Hymnal)*

Here in This Place

Here in this place, new light is streaming,

now is the darkness vanished away.

See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,

brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,

gather us in - the blind and the lame.

Call to us now, and we shall awaken,

we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery,

we are the old - who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of history,

called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in - the rich and the haughty,

gather us in - the proud and the strong.

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,

give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place, the new light is shining;
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in - and hold us forever,
gather us in - and make us your own.
Gather us in - all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

A time for meditation

† Response to meditation (*hymn # 582—Glory To God Hymnal*)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

† Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as
the scripture is read, and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what
you have to say to us today. Amen.

† Hymn #453 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

Open your ears, O faithful people,
open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.

God has spoken to the people, Hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, Hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, Hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, Hallelujah!

They who have ears to hear this message,
they who have ears, then let them hear.
They who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear Gods word.

God has spoken to the people, Hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, Hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, Hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, Hallelujah!

First Reading

Acts 4.32-35

Second Reading

John 3:1-17

Third Reading

Isaiah 66.22

ONE: May we approach that which is sacred through this
reading and in this time

ALL: Now and always, Let us so do.

Sermon

New Earth

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Fry

† Hymn #760 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

Bring Many Names

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
Celebrate, in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,
Planning all the wonders of creation,
Setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
Feeling all the strains of human living,
Caring and forgiving, till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

† Affirmation of Faith—(*in unison*)

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.

Pastoral Prayers

Silent Prayer—Corporate Prayer—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.*

Offering -

Offertory

† Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore!
Praise Triune God whom we adore!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

† Prayer of Thanksgiving (*responsively*)

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We offer our thanks and praise in part through the gifts that we give to the community so that others can benefit from generosity. Let us grow in thankfulness, O GOD, so that we might grow in joy. So be it.

SENDING

† Hymn #549 (*Glory To God Hymnal*)

May the Love of the Lord

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.

May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.

May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

† Charge and Blessing