

COMMITMENT

Northminster is an open fellowship that wants to share its gift of life and ministry with others. During the Time of Response, this church extends to you an invitation to membership by your request for baptism, by letter from a sister church, or by statement of your Christian experience in another denomination. If you would like to unite with this covenant community, please express this desire by coming forward at this point of the service.

TIME OF RESPONSE

I Corinthians 13:13 reads, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." The church's calling is to love because God is love. Believing anything means acting as if it is true. Believing that the ultimate reality underlying all creation is love has staggering consequences for what we do. We practice our faith most purely when we muster the courage to love.

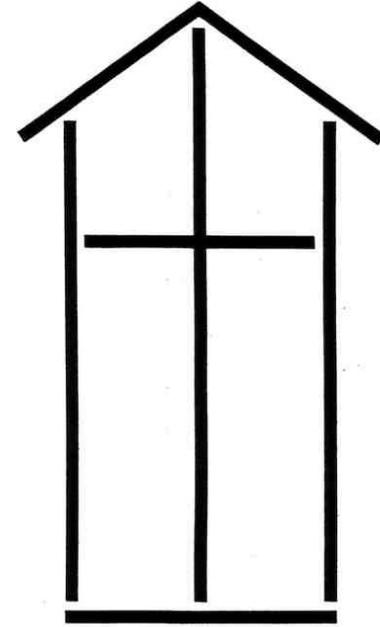
- R. Kirby Godsey,
When We Talk about God . . . Let's Be Honest

- *The Recessional Hymn No. 530: "Be Still, My Soul" *FINLANDIA*
*The Benediction Charles Poole
*The Postlude "Prelude in C" Bach

**The congregation will please stand.*

The Lectionary passages for October 27 are found on the following pages in the Pew Bible:

Joel 2:23-32~ pages 741-742
Psalm 65 ~ page 459
II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 ~ page 968
Luke 18:9-14 ~ page 853



To walk the way of sacred unknowing is to remember that our best ways of thinking and speaking about God are provisional. They are always in process - reflecting our limited perspectives, responding to our particular lives and times, relating us to our ancestors in the faith even as they flow out toward the God who remains free to act in ways that confound us. If our ways of thinking and speaking of God are not at least that fluid, then they are not really theologies but *theolatries* - things we worship instead of God, because we cannot get God to hold still long enough to pin God down.

- Barbara Brown Taylor, *Holy Envy*

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
Reformation Sunday
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 27, 2019
Ten-thirty o'clock

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

The worship of God begins this morning as you enter the Sanctuary. You are encouraged to use these moments for meditation, reflection and prayer. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your fellowship with those around you.

The Meditation of Preparation

“Know yourself” is good advice. But to know ourselves doesn’t mean to analyze ourselves . . . Solitude, silence, and prayer are often the best ways to self-knowledge. Not because they offer solutions for the complexity of our lives but because they bring us in touch with our sacred center, where God dwells. That sacred center may not be analyzed. It is the place of adoration, thanksgiving, and praise.

-Henri J. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

Prelude	“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”	Buxtehude
The Call to Worship	“O Be Joyful in the Lord” O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands! Serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song Bless the Lord!	Yarrington

*The Processional Hymn No. 108: “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” MADRID

*The Litany of Praise Marty Kelly

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God;

People: For God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

Leader: God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

**People: God determines the number of the stars;
God gives to all of them their names.**

Leader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

People: God has understanding beyond measure.

Leader: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving.

People: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise the Lord!

– excerpts from Psalm 147

*The Gloria Patri No. 807: “Glory Be to the Father” MEINEKE

*The Prayer of Invocation Marty Kelly

The Greeting Major Treadway

The Lessons Joel 2:23-32
II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

In me there is darkness, but with thee there is light.

I am lonely, but thou leavest me not;

I am feeble in heart, but thou leavest me not;

I am restless, but with thee there is peace;

In me there is bitterness, but with thee there is patience.

Thy ways are past understanding,

but thou knowest the way for me.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Major Treadway

INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

*The Offertory Hymn No. 21: “How Great Thou Art” O STORE GUD

*The Offertory Prayer Marty Kelly

The Offertory “The Church’s One Foundation” Pethel

*The Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel Luke 18:9-14 Charles Poole

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem “We Sing the Mighty Power of God” Martin

We sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
we sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule by day;
the moon shines full at his command and all the stars obey.

We sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;
he formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how your wonders are displayed where’er we turn our eyes,
if we survey the ground we tread or gaze upon the sky!

There’s not a plant or flower below but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we may be, you God, are present there.

The Sermon “The Boundless Spirit of God” Charles Poole