Fear imprisons, faith liberates;
Fear paralyzes, faith empowers;
Fear disheartens, faith encourages;
Fear sickens, faith heals;
Fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life,
Faith rejoices in God!

-Harry Emerson Fosdick
THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Second Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2020
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
In deepest night, in darkest days, no songs we raise, when silence must suffice as praise. Yet sounding in us quietly, there is the song of God.

-Susan Palo Cherwien

Preparation

The Prelude
“See the Lord of Life and Light” Bach
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Hobby

The Call to Worship
“Drop, Drop, Slow Tears” Gibbons
Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet, which brought from heav’n the news and Prince of peace. Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat; to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease. In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

*The Procession of the Lenten Banner Anna Mitchell Peters
*The Processional Hymn No. 52 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” ELLACOMBE
*The Litany of Praise Norman Perkins
Leader: The Lord be with you;
People: And also with you.
Leader: We lift up our eyes to the hills,
From where shall our help come?
People: Our help comes from the Lord,
Who has made heaven and earth.
Leader: Our God, who never sleeps, is our keeper;
No power, neither sun nor moon, can smite us.
All: The Lord protects us from all evil,
And keeps our souls, now and forever.
-Psalm 121, adapted

*The Gloria Patri No. 807: “Glory Be to the Father” MEINEKE
*The Prayer of Invocation Norman Perkins
The Greeting Lesley Ratcliff
PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel John 3:1-17 Charles Poole
Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem “Lamb of God” Christiansen/Coker
Lamb of God most holy!
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Patient still and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer;
Our sins by Thee were taken,
Or hope had us forsaken:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!
Shirley Foster, soprano

The Sermon “Concerning the Life of Faith” Charles Poole

COMMITTMENT

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

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
-Hebrews 11:1

The Dedication of Children and Parents

Elisabeth Flora Maples
Daughter of Brock and Lora Maples

The Litany of Dedication Lesley Ratcliff
Leader: We are here today to present Betty to the church and to dedicate her to God. Who brings this child for this holy purpose?
Parents: We, her parents, bring this child to be dedicated to God.
Leader: What can we affirm about this child?
People: That she is made in the image of God and is a child of God by creation.
Leader: What will this child be told about her faith history?
People: She will learn about Abraham and Sarah, the grandparents of our faith; about Moses, who led our ancestors out of bondage, and about Miriam, who sang and danced a victory song of freedom; about the Jewish hope for a Messiah; about Jesus Christ the Savior, and about the history of the church as God’s redemptive people in the world.
Leader: Who will raise this child in the faith, worship with her regularly, teach her to pray and lead her into a loving relationship with God?
Parents: We are the persons primarily responsible for this important work.
Leader: Is anyone else to help with the guidance of this child?
People: Yes, we too, will share in her growth, for she belongs to us as well.
Leader: We trust that God will be with us in this awesome task.
People: For God is faithful to us in all that we do.
Leader: Amen.

The Recessional Hymn No. 552 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” OLIVET

The Benediction Charles Poole

The Postlude “Intermezzi” Schroeder

* The congregation will please stand.

The Lectionary passages for March 8 are found on the following pages in the Pew Bible:

Genesis 12:1-4 – page 8
Psalm 121 – page 498
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 – page 916
John 3:1-17 – pages 863-864

THE DEDICATION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Elisabeth Flora Maples
Daughter of Brock and Lora Maples

The Litany of Dedication Lesley Ratcliff
Leader: We are here today to present Betty to the church and to dedicate her to God. Who brings this child for this holy purpose?
Parents: We, her parents, bring this child to be dedicated to God.
Leader: What can we affirm about this child?
People: That she is made in the image of God and is a child of God by creation.
Leader: What will this child be told about her faith history?
People: She will learn about Abraham and Sarah, the grandparents of our faith; about Moses, who led our ancestors out of bondage, and about Miriam, who sang and danced a victory song of freedom; about the Jewish hope for a Messiah; about Jesus Christ the Savior, and about the history of the church as God’s redemptive people in the world.
Leader: Who will raise this child in the faith, worship with her regularly, teach her to pray and lead her into a loving relationship with God?
Parents: We are the persons primarily responsible for this important work.
Leader: Is anyone else to help with the guidance of this child?
People: Yes, we too, will share in her growth, for she belongs to us as well.
Leader: We trust that God will be with us in this awesome task.
People: For God is faithful to us in all that we do.
Leader: Amen.

The Presentation of the Child Charles Poole

The Lessons Genesis 12:1-4
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession
O Lord, increase our faith, strengthen us and sustain us,
In thy true faith. Endue us with wisdom, charity, love, and patience,
In all our adversity, Dear Jesus, bless us.
-16th century prayer

The Silent Prayer
The Assurance of Pardon
The Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

* The Offertory Hymn “Shape Us, O Christ” (see insert)
* The Offertory Prayer Norman Perkins
The Offertory “I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ” Bach
* The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH