

Presbytery of Western NC Stated Meeting
Worship Service
July 31, 2021

Worship Leaders: The Reverend Alex Patchin McNeil, Executive Director, More Light Presbyterians, Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks, Director of Children's & Family Ministries, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, The Reverend Jill V. Isola, Pastor, Northminster Presbyterian Church

Call to Worship (Amy Kim)

As we turn our hearts and minds to worship, please join me in the call to worship.

Lord Jesus Christ, as this day begins, help us to recognize you in each face we meet.

May we hear your voice when a neighbor says, "I am present. I am hungry. I am thirsty."

Open our eyes and our minds to the needs of your Beloved Community in our midst.

May we hear your voice when a neighbor says, "I am a stranger. I am vulnerable. I am sick. I am in prison."

Give us minds to know you, hearts to love you and strength to serve you.

May all we do be out of love and in service to your children everywhere. Amen.

Sharing of God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture: Matthew 25:34-40 (The Inclusive Bible) (Jill)

³⁴ "The ruler will say to those on the right, 'Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the kingdom, God's Beloved Community, which was prepared for you from the creation of the world! ³⁵ For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; ³⁶ naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ Then those gathered will ask, 'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?' ⁴⁰ The ruler will answer them, 'The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers or siblings, you did it for me.' This is the Word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Reflection: Abundant Love and Radical Hospitality (Jill)

Music: *O Love* (virtual choir anthem from Northminster Presbyterian Church) "[O Love" sung by the NPC Hickory Choir. Composer: Elaine Hagenberg. Publisher: Beckenhorst Press](#)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Revs. McNeil and Isola)

Invitation to Communion (Alex)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts, **we lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God, **it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer continues...

In praise and thanksgiving, we seek to join our voices with the great cloud of witnesses, including those whose voices have been silenced for far too long, ignored by oppression and crying out for justice. With these voices, we offer this prayer:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer continues...

Even though we don't always understand it, we continue to tell the story, proclaiming the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer continues...

*...we pray using the words that Jesus taught us to pray, **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion (Amy Kim)

*Let us pray. **God of abundance, with this feast, this holy meal, you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. We go forth from this place nourished and strengthened, ready to proclaim your abundant love and radical hospitality for all the world. Through the grace and peace of our Triune God we pray. Amen.***

Charge & Benediction (Jill)