

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Welcomes You to Worship

March 14, 2021

4th Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

Ministers: Everyone in the Congregation
The Reverend Dwight McCormick II, Pastor

Prelude "Air" HANDEL

Welcome and Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship** Diana Harrison

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: **Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble.**

Leader: God gathers us from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

People: **Let us thank the Lord for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.**

Hymn "To God Be the Glory" Glory to God

Call to Confession Diana Harrison

Unison Prayer of Confession

O God, you have set before us our greed, our hatred and self-hatred, our fear and our apathy. You have also shown us the injustice and tyrannies of our public life. We have succumbed to paralyzing anxiety in response to injustice. We have resisted the prompting of your Spirit who nudges us out of self-absorption. Empower us by your Spirit to be attentive and discerning partners in healing your creation. Amen.

Silence is kept for individual confession of sins

Leader: Amen

Assurance of Pardon Diana Harrison

Leader: God's healing mercy abounds. God's grace goes before us, after us, through us — sometimes even unbeknownst to us.

People: **Friends, hear the good of the gospel: We are forgiven and restored to right paths of justice and shalom. Thanks be to God!**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Prayer of Illumination

First Reading Old Testament Lesson Numbers 21:4-9
Leader: Hear now what The Spirit is saying to The Church
People: **Thanks be to God**

Second Reading New Testament Lesson John 3:14-21
Leader: Hear now what The Spirit is saying to The Church
People: **Thanks be to God**

Special Music "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" arr. HAYES

Sermon "Smashing Serpents" Rev. Kathleen Burslem

Responding to the Word

Stewardship Reminder

Affirmation of Faith (from A Declaration of Faith)

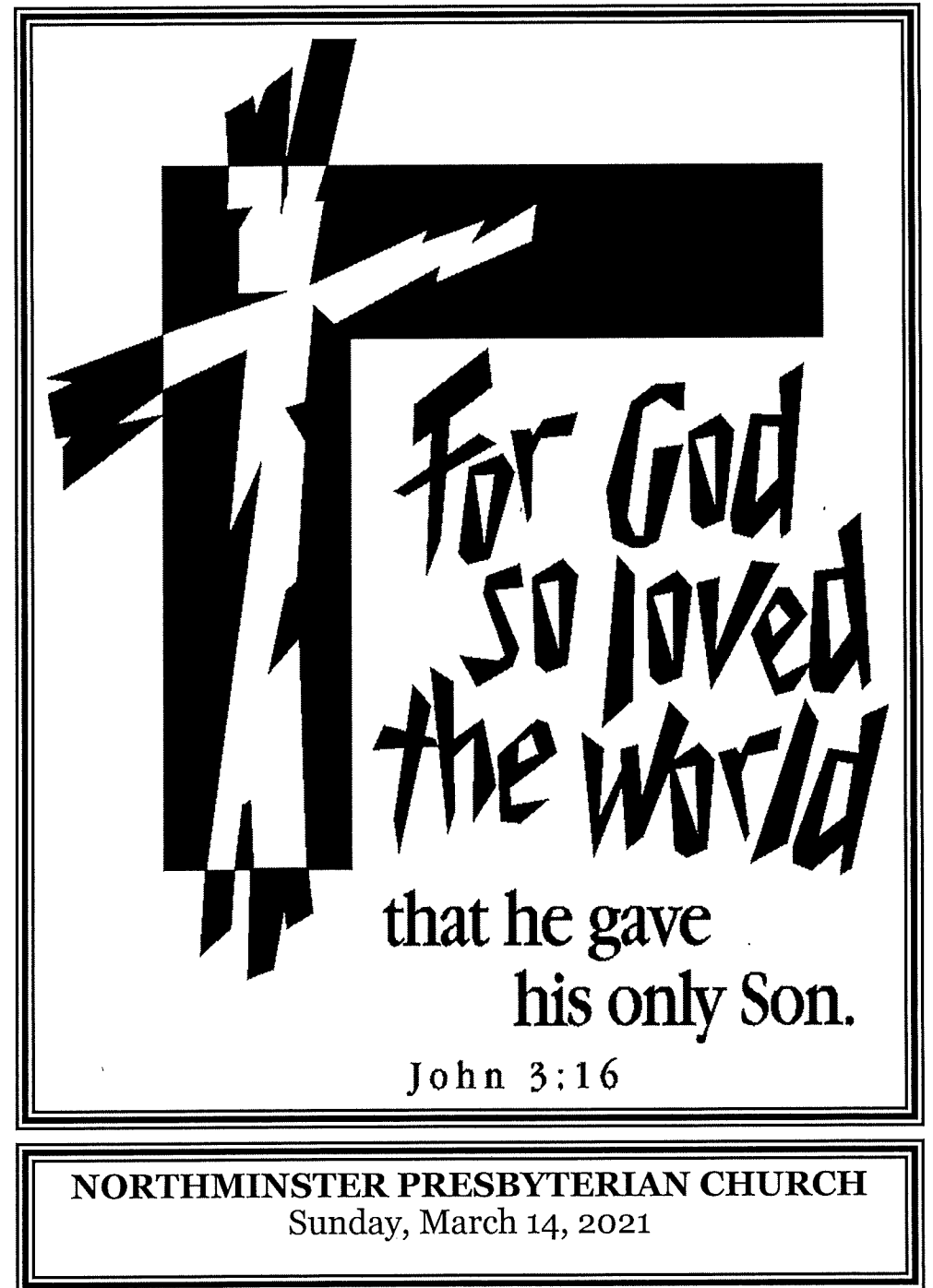
We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race, or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time. It is part of our daily discipline to observe a day of worship and rest, setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work, celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord's goodness. We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture, not expecting detailed directions for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God's present claim on us, and to assure us of God's grace and comfort. We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness, and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers in ways best for us all. Life in God's presence issues in life for others, for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see, we cannot love God whom we do not see.

Hymn "Come! Live in the Light!" Glory to God

Benediction

Closing Chorus "Go Now in Peace" BESIG

Postlude "Trumpet Voluntary" DUPUIS



Thank you to David Hapner and Dawn White for leading us in song

Today's liturgy is provided by Rev. Roger Gench of The Presbyterian Outlook

Please visit these links as we continue to be the Body of Christ in new ways:

www.northminsterspringfield.org

www.facebook.com/northminsterpresbyterianspringfieldohio

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 14, 2021