

*HYMN 240 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 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 is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

If standing is difficult, please remain seated. Larger print bulletins are available.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Chloe and Paul in celebration of their marriage yesterday.

*Ushers
Jyke Jones, Mac Pace, Tina Paquette, Ray Williams*

*Acolytes
Maggie Graybill, Lilly Hayes*

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

*April Twentieth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Eighteen*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

REPORT OF THE MISSION STUDY TASK FORCE

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN 248 (Verse 1) *Hymn to Joy*

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, See, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding Bring a taste of love unknown.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from I Peter 2:2-10)

Minister: Come to Christ, people of God,
and taste the goodness of the Lord.

**Congregants: He gives us every provision,
and fills us with His good things.**

Minister: Come to Christ, you chosen people,
and upon the cornerstone building yourselves into a spiritual home
where all will find rest and courage and strength.

Congregants: With joy, let us give praise to the Lord our God.

Minister: Come, disciples of Christ, and let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**O God, all seasons are seasons of Your mercy.
Winter barrenness or summer plentitude,**

**seedtime or harvest, all are alike to You.
Every season is a time for new seed,
all seasons are occasions and opportunities
to share Your love and bring Your people to harvest,
any season is time to rest from our labors.
We thank You for all Your bountiful mercies,
and pray for Your presence in this season
of praise and worship and thanksgiving.
Draw us closer now, we pray, through Christ.
Amen.**

* HYMN 238 *Thine Is the Glory*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
**Christ our Lord, you have graced our lives
with a love lavish beyond measure.
You poured yourself out for our salvation.
Yet our response falls so far short.
We are timid in love and reserved in compassion.
We hold back our generosity to those in need,
and are reluctant to reach out to the outcast.
Our love for you, far from wholehearted,
is undermined and diminished
by fickle enthusiasms and selfish desires.
Our Lord and Savior, have mercy upon us.
Cleanse our hearts, and empower us to love
as you have loved us, through your Holy Spirit.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)
The inestimable mercy of God is not diminished
by the wavering strength of our faith
nor by our limited capacity for joy or hope or grace.
The amazing mercy of God is poured upon us,
saint and sinner, faithful and unfaithful alike,
so that all may come to know
the boundless and eternal love of God.
Friends, simply believe and accept this good news:
in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Praise be to God!

* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Hymn 232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (Verse 3)

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING GOD'S WORD I John 4:7-15

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Round Hill Ambassadors

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lauren Godsey

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP'S

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 14:17-21

¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.' ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, 'Surely, not I?' ²⁰He said to them, 'It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.'

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

A TRAITOR'S TRIAL: THE CASE FOR THE DEFENSE

Dr. Merritt

Announcements

WE CONTINUE WITH OUR SPECIAL SERMON SERIES, setting the case of Judas into a trial setting and discovering the spiritual lessons this drama opens for us. Next Sunday the sermon will deal with the final verdict.

WE WELCOME THE ROUND HILL AMBASSADORS, our guest singers from Round Hill Elementary School, under the direction of Dena Holland. Our congregation is building a special relationship with our neighborhood school, and we are delighted these young people and their families are with us today!

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHLOE LOCKARD AND PAUL TOLER, who were united in marriage in our sanctuary yesterday. Chloe, a child of this church, is the daughter of Chuck and Susan Lockard. Chloe and Paul will make their home in Alexandria. May God bless their union with happiness and joy!

Ushers for May 6, 2018 – Emily Allen, John and Lee Ann Kabana, Dave Snider

Tom and Lynn Kirby would like to thanks our church family for all your concern throughout Tom’s recovery. We appreciate all that you have done.

Calendar

Today	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Circle 2 with Alice Baker
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	9:00 am	Presbytery Meeting (Lynchburg)
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Service Youth Service Practice

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Russ Merritt, Transitional Pastor Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary Lauren Godsey, Nursery Attendant
Ministers...Members of Northminster

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Betty Dixon	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Lois Hopkins
Jane Horeis	Rose Howard	Tom Kirby
Margie Lemon	Jeff Midkiff	Jim Maile
Floyd Moretz	Jenny Nabywaniec	Ramona Ortiz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Karen Smith	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Jo Ann Threlkeld	Bill Waddell	George Wingeier
Shirley Wynn		

Friends and Family

Mike Duckworth-(Holly Woodson’s brother-in-law)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Class of 2018: Dana Esworthy, Barry Ferrell, Jyke Jones, Stan Lanford, Ann Pace

Class of 2019: Margie Cundiff, John Kabana, Allen Kling, Sarah Plymale,
Holly Woodson

Class of 2020: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Lynn Kirby, Bob Newman,
Dave Snider

10:30 am

Summer Worship