

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

*THE CHARGE (Minister)

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

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

Thought for the Week: *Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Jeremiah 29:5*

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May Tenth the Year of Our Lord

Two Thousand Twenty

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5; John 14:1-14

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Congregants: Beloved, let us love one another.

Minister: We love because God first loved us.

Congregants: This is our new commandment in Christ, that we love one another.

Minister: Let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (Unison)

**God of great and small, Lord of one and all,
be with us now as we come before You in worship.**

**As You love us with a divine Parent's love,
so fill our hearts and minds and spirits with love
that touches others and inspires us into service.**

**Amid all that happens in this world,
help us to focus now upon You,
for we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

* HYMN OF PRAISE

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

O God of wonderful and continuous mercy,
give us grace to make a fresh start today.
We know that we have not loved You with our whole heart,
nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not done as You have commanded,
but choose to go our own way.
Forgive us, O Lord.
As we pray to be forgiven, teach us also to forgive,
and lead us into a new life of love for all.
Hear these our silent prayers.

* CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Holy and merciful God,
in Your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against You.
You alone know how often we have sinned,
in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts,
in neglecting others, and in forgetting Your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord.
Forgive our sins, help us to live in Your light,
and guide us as we seek to walk in Your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News!
Who is in position to condemn us?
Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 32 (Insert)

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.

ANTHEM

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 15:11-32 (Insert)

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON *THE PARABLE OF THE MISSING MOTHER* Dr. Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* (Unison)

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 Hymn 708 Verse One

We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' '

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 32

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord', and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah* ⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷ You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah* ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. ¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. ¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE CELEBRATE WITH ALL THE MOTHERS of the congregation on this Mother's Day. Thank you all for the love and care you share!

BY ACTION OF THE SESSION, due to the ongoing pandemic crisis, there will be no gathering for worship next Sunday morning, May 17 and May 24. The worship service will be offered via audio tape.

Kidviv is zooming Thursday evenings with music from Melissa, devotion from Lauren, and prayers with Russ. Last week was on prayer and this week is on faith.

Caitlin is zooming with older youth and working on projects.

Northminster is proud to announce we have joined the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**. To participate simply go to the [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) website. Once logged into your **Kroger account**, you can search for **Northminster Presbyterian Church** either by name or code **PL601** and then click **Enroll**. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a *Rewards Card*. **REMEMBER**, purchases will not count for the church until after you register your *Rewards Card*. You must swipe your registered Kroger *Rewards Card* or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger *Rewards Card* when shopping for each purchase to count. If you do not yet have a Kroger *Rewards Card*, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger. Contact Chuck Lockard if you have any questions. Thanks for supporting our work at Northminster!

ACOLYTES AND LITURGISTS are being scheduled for 2020. If you (or your children) are interested in serving in worship services, please let the Minister know.

The new 2020 sign up sheets for ushering and communion servers are now on the bulletin board outside the church office. PLEASE SIGN UP. Anyone can help with ushering. Communion servers should be elders, active or inactive. Any questions should be directed to Judy Ferrell.

THE MINISTER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY is offered each Sunday at 10:00, prior to worship, and is open to everyone seeking to learn more of God's teachings. Come join us each week (and bring your Bible!).

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

If you or someone you know should be included in the list of those needing special prayer, please contact the Minister. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Minister know.

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer	Charlotte Cooley
Michael Hambrick	Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle
Barbara Jones	Bob Lancaster	Don Myers
Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Gladys Presson	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Frances Stevens	Jo Ann Threlkeld	Paige Wheeler
Olive Whisler	Ray Williams	

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Mary Moretz – (Nancy and Rick Assaid)
Eleanor Newman – (Bob Newman's Aunt)
Dee Woodson (Holly Woodson's daughter-in-law)
Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)
Barbara Simpson – (Mary Simpson's daughter-in-law)

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Jeff Echols, Judy Ferrell, Vee Hayes, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Sherry Moses, Bob Newman, Jeremy Newman, Betsy Robison, Dave Snider, Ray Williams, Gayle Wise

