

THE SERMON

UNEXPECTED JOURNEYS

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.

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: *Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground-everything that has the breath of life in it. I give every green plant for food."*
Genesis 1:29-30

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May Seventeenth the Year of Our Lord

Two Thousand Twenty

Sixth 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

Psalm 115; I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

(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, from Psalm 31)

Minister: In You, O Lord, we seek refuge.

In Your righteousness, deliver us.

Congregants: You are indeed our rock, our fortress.

Lead us and guide us, we pray.

Minister: Take us out of the net that ensnares,

for You are our refuge.

Congregants: Let Your face shine upon us,

and save us in Your steadfast love.

Minister: Let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (Unison)

God of grace and glory, Lord of light and love,

You have prepared for us

joys beyond our understanding.

As we come before You now in heart and spirit,

pour into our lives Your strength and Your mercy,

**that we might grow in Your presence,
and open ourselves to Your Living Word,
Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God promises that if we ask, we will receive.
Jesus tells us to believe in him,
so that our hearts will not be troubled.
We can come in faith, trusting God's grace,
confess our sin, be forgiven, and free to live in joy.

* CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Lord, we confess
that we cover our ears to Your commandments.
We choose selfish paths instead,
even if it causes suffering for others.
We neglect to heed Your instructions
to care for the vulnerable and to uphold the weak.
We have trouble surrendering ourselves to You,
and trusting Your promise to never abandon us.
Forgive our unwillingness to listen to Your Word
and to do the work to which we are called.
Amend our ways and help us to walk with You.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The apostle Peter writes:
"Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people.
Once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy."
Friends, believe the Good News:
through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Genesis 12:1-5

1Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 4So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

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 Acts 16:6-16

6They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; 8so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' 10When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. 11 We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, 12and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. 13On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us. 16 One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MEETING OF THE SESSION WILL BE HELD this afternoon, May 17, at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. If you have business for the Session to consider, please share that information with the Minister.

THE SESSION HAS CANCELLED SUNDAY WORSHIP in the sanctuary for next Sunday, May 24., due to the ongoing pandemic. The service will once again be available through audio taping.

Kidvivi 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

