

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:** *I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. Ecclesiastes 2:5*

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

*May Twenty fourth the Year of Our Lord  
Two Thousand Twenty  
Ascension Sunday*

**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!**

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**GATHER JOYFULLY**

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23

(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 (from Psalm 47 and Ephesians 1)

Clap your hands, all you peoples!

God has gone up with a shout of joy.

The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign,

his is the name above all names.

Let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Almighty and eternal God,

Your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,

ascended far above all heavens

so that he might fill all things.

Mercifully give us faith

to trust that, as he promised,

he abides with us on earth to the end of time.

Be with us now as we gather in worship,

through his holy and life-giving presence. Amen.

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

\*THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us humble ourselves  
under the mighty hand of God,  
casting all our anxieties and fears  
on the Lord of mercy and forgiveness,  
Who cares for us and redeems us.  
Trusting in his grace,  
let us confess our sin.

\* CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
You have raised Jesus from death to life,  
and crowned him as Lord of all.  
We confess that we have not bowed before him  
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.  
We have gone along with the ways of the world,  
and failed to give him glory.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
and raise us from our sin and brokenness,  
so that we may be Your faithful people,  
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who rules the world and is head of the Church.  
Hear these our silent prayers.

\*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The God of all grace,  
Who calls us to eternal glory in Jesus Christ,  
will restore, support, and strengthen us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Thanks be to God!

\* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 116:1-15

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. 2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. 3 The snares of death encompassed me; the

pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. 4 Then I called on the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I pray, save my life!' 5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. 6 The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. 7 Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. 8 For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. 9 I walk before the Lord in the land of the living. 10 I kept my faith, even when I said, 'I am greatly afflicted'; 11 I said in my consternation, 'Everyone is a liar.' 12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, 14 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. 15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

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 SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 15:12-17

12 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

*NO GREATER LOVE*

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.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

BY ACTION OF THE SESSION, Sunday morning worship services in the sanctuary will resume on June 7. The Session has also established several practices and protocols that everyone is expected to follow. Those practices are being shared by various means with all church family members. We look forward to gathering together again in worship! On May 24 and May 31, we will continue to worship at home, with services made 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

