

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021**

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**GATHER JOYFULLY**

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Peter 3: 18-22

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all you people, come and worship.

God has made a covenant with us.

Come, all creatures of the earth, come and worship.

God has made a covenant with all creatures.

Remember the covenant and be thankful.

God remembers the covenant and God will save us.

Let us worship our God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Faithful God,

you called all creatures into being,

and you care for each one.

Send your grace upon your people gathered here,

that we may follow your ways of truth,

and walk in the paths of steadfast love,

proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 370 *This Is My Father's World*

This is my Father's world,

and to my listening ears

all nature sings, and round me rings

the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world;

I rest me in the thought

of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,

his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.

O, let me ne'er forget

that though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world.  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
and earth and heaven be one.

#### THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Assured that the One who calls us to hear and obey, already knows the confessions in our hearts and is ready to forgive, let us confess our sin before God and before one another.

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

God of the rainbow,  
you made a covenant with all creatures,  
promising life and hope.  
God of pathways,  
you show us how we should walk.  
Yet we forget our connection with one another  
and think that we are the center of the universe.  
We wander from your paths of truth  
into paths of deceit and pride.  
Forgive us and lead us back  
into the arms of your love.  
Hear these our silent prayers.

#### THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is merciful and full of steadfast love.  
God will not forget us.  
God will wash us clean,  
and lead us on paths of steadfast love  
and faithfulness.

#### RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS HYMN 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.

### **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

#### THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD 1 Peter 3: 18-22

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a

good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

#### THE PRAYER 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.**

#### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Genesis 9: 8-17

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' <sup>12</sup>God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

#### THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and to create a whole new world. As we meditate on your word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may treasure your word with our whole hearts and fix our eyes on you. Amen

#### THE SERMON

*The Rainbow Connection*

Pam Claterbaugh

#### HYMN OF COMMITMENT 738 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* (Verses 1 and 4)

O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way;  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.

#### 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.**

## GO FAITHFULLY

HYMN OF DEDICATION 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (Verses 1 and 2)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

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**Thought for the Week: *Isaiah 27:3 - I, the Lord, will care for that vineyard; I will water it at the right time. No one will hurt it, because I will guard it day and night.***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY OF THE SESSION will meet at noon this Tuesday, in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in being part of this new effort to provide opportunities for church family members to build deeper Christian ties with one another, and to bring others into our fellowship, come join us (and bring your lunch)!

We will begin our Hunger Buster campaign on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. You can pick up your Hunger Buster bags in the narthex. We will be taking them to the Presbyterian Community Center on February 29<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your support with this Church mission.

The Presbyterian Center is in need of school supplies and asking for donations. A list of supplies needed is on the bulletin board across from the secretary's office.

### Calendar

Today	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	12:00 pm	Fellowship Ministry Meeting
Next Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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Russ Merritt, Transitional Pastor      Melissa Hudson, Music Director  
Susie Tallmage, Secretary              Lauren Axelson, 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

Jessee Amos	Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer
Charlotte Cooley	Jim Cregger	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Maryanne Huff	Barbara Jones
Dennis Kincer	Bob Lancaster	Homer Linton
Susan Lockard	Floyd Moretz	Mary Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens	Jo Ann Threlkeld
Ray Williams		

#### Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski

Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)  
Tim Smith (Karen's husband)

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Kathy Baker, Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Judy Ferrell, Tom Hale, Vee Hayes, Daniel Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Jeremy Newman, Gayle Wise