

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

***July 24, 2022***  
***Seventh Sunday after Pentecost***



***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

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 306 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

**Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Arise and shine, for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**Congregants: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Minister: Nations will come to his light,

and rulers will seek his radiance.

**Congregants: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Minister: He will judge the people with righteousness  
and defend the cause of the poor.

**Congregants: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Minister: The mystery of the ages is revealed,  
the eternal plan of God is known to all.

**Congregants: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Minister: Let us kneel down before him,  
to give him honor, glory, and praise.

**Congregants: Come, let us worship our God!**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**Almighty God, precious Savior, ever-present Holy Spirit,**

**You have taught us that all our words and deeds  
without love and grace are worth nothing.**

**Be with us now in our gathering for worship,  
hear our voices share in praise and thanksgiving,  
and open our hearts and minds and spirits  
to accept Your Word and follow Your path.**

**We are broken, we are sinful, we need Your forgiveness,**

**so we confess our waywardness and seek Your love.  
Pour into our lives this most excellent gift,  
the very bond of peace and all goodness.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE HYMN 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen, amen.**

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 6:17-26

<sup>17</sup> He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. <sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup> 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup> 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup> 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. 'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD I Corinthians 12:31-13:13

<sup>31</sup>But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

*A STILL MORE EXCELLENT WAY*

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

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 65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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*Thought for the month:*

*Thoughts from Pelagius, a monk from Wales (ca.360-430). The sacredness of Nature: We cannot do whatever we wish to the body of the earth, but are to honor it as our own body. The great resources of land and sea, these are for all. They are given for the well-being of every people and every nation, not just for the well-being of some.*

*Earth Care:*

*Create a backyard wildlife habitat. Native plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Attracting native insects like bees and butterflies can help pollinate your plants and provide food for native birds. Avoid planting non-native plants, which compete with native species for resources and habitat.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE SESSION MEETS TODAY FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE.** If you have any business for the Session, or if you would like to join the church membership, please let the Minister know.

Our congregation will be attending the Showtimers Production of Godspell on Saturday, July 30. Cost is \$15.00. Pay Russ by check or cash. Many will be having dinner at 5:30 at Lydia's, located on the corner of 419 and Apperson. Call the church office and leave a message to let us know if you will be attending just the play or if you will be attending dinner and the play. Looking forward to a fun evening!!

We will be collecting Hunger Buster bags for the Presbyterian Community Center on August 7th. If you would like to participate, please pick up a bag from the table in the narthex.

The Rescue Mission is looking for volunteers. If you want to know more about what it involves and have access to a computer, just log in to [rescuemission.net/volunteer](http://rescuemission.net/volunteer). You can also contact Volunteer Coordinator Harlee McKinney at 540-343-7227 ext. 7628 or email at [harlee.mckinney@rescuemission.net](mailto:harlee.mckinney@rescuemission.net). Karen Gwitt volunteers there and would also be glad to give you some information. You can sign up online for specific dates and times.

Our nursery attendant, Lauren Axelson, will be losing her helper, sister Caitlin Godsey in August. If you would like to help, please sign up on the sheet across from the church office.

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST, Sunday morning worship will begin at 10:30. The Minister will be offering a Sunday School class-- "Pilgrimage"--each Sunday morning at 9:30. We look forward to seeing you with us throughout the summer!

There is no KidVid for children during the summer months.

We are collecting devotional material to be delivered to jails and shelters. If you have any that you are done with, don't throw it away, donate it! You can place your devotional material in the box located in the narthex.

JUST A REMINDER: there are boxes in the narthex to recycle your bulletins.

#### Calendar

Today	9:30 am 10:30 am	Pilgrimage Sunday School Worship Service Session Meeting
Saturday		Showtimers – “Godspell”
Next Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am	Pilgrimage Sunday School Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, 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 Pastor. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Pastor know.

**Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.**

**Members**

Ann Bailey

Bill Bailey

Frances Bowling

Barry Ferrell

Maggie Hambrick

Jake Hayes

Barbara Jones

Dennis Kincer

Reba Kling

Bob Lancaster

Homer Linton

Chuck Lockard

Susan Lockard

Floyd Moretz

Ann Pace

Mac Pace

Ken Riding

Buddy Smith

Sandy Smith

JoAnn Threlkeld

**Friends and Family**

Joaquin Bielawski

Annette Daughy

Shirley Basham

Terry Foss

Donna Betters

John Morris

Mabel Bowman

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Tom Hale, Gary Harris, Vee Hayes, Jyke Jones, Daniel Kirby, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Dora Slee, Gayle Wise