

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

July 3, 2022
Fourth 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

Psalm 30; II Kings 5:1-14; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

(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 331 *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Wonderful are the hands that healed unseeing eyes,
that gently touched those in pain.

**Congregants: Wonderful are the arms that embraced children,
that raised the spirits of the brokenhearted.**

Minister: Wonderful are the words that welcomed outcasts,
that spoke parables of love and grace.

**Congregants: Wonderful the Savior who brings us together today,
whose sacrifice and resurrection are our redemption.**

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**This is the day that You have made, O God,
and so we come to rejoice as we gather in Your presence.**

**Open our eyes and ears, minds and hearts, we pray,
so that we can receive You Holy Spirit.**

**We know well that our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**

Forgive us, we pray, and make us new.

**Set us free from the past that we cannot change,
and open us to a future where we can be transformed.**

Grant us grace to grow more and more in Your image.

Restore us and sustain us, we pray. 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 Psalm 66:1-9

¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; ² sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise. ³ Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you. ⁴ All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.' *Selah* ⁵ Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals. ⁶ He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him, ⁷ who rules by his might for ever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let the rebellious not exalt themselves. *Selah* ⁸ Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹ who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

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 Romans 8:18-21

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

GLORIOUS FREEDOM

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 327 *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

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 338 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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*We welcome and thank C.W. Markham for leading
our music this morning.*

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

TONIGHT, JULY 3, there will be a special ecumenical gathering of neighborhood churches, meeting in Huff Lane Park across from Northminster, sharing in a songfest and celebrating the birth of our nation. Our men's quartet will be singing, along with special music from other congregations. Make your plans now to join us--and remember to bring a folding chair.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday July 10th, in our morning worship service.

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.

It's that time of year when you start thinking of putting away your "cold weather" clothes and getting out your "warm weather" clothes. If you have coats that you may be replacing next year or any children's winter clothing, please consider donating it to Blue Ridge Literacy. The old Scout room located in the Sunday school hallway has been designated as a space to house donated coats and winter clothes for refugees. You can put your donations there.

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

Calendar

Today	9:30 am	Pilgrimage Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	6:00 pm	Community Sing-along
Next Sunday	9:30 am	Pilgrimage Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service / Communion

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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