

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

July 31, 2022
Eight 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 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11

(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 2 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Let us sing new song to the Lord!

Congregants: Let us give thanks and praise to our Creator.

Minister: We gather in the name of Christ, our Savior.

Congregants: We come together as journeying disciples.

Minister: The Holy Spirit is in our midst.

Congregants: Let us receive God's grace, poured out for us.

Minister: Come, let us worship our Lord!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**Creating, redeeming, sustaining God,
we gather now before Your throne
to celebrate Your goodness, to hear Your Word,
to find strength and guidance for our journey,
and to be sent forth in Your service as disciples.**

Be with us now, and make us whole.

**We confess that we have failed to love You
with all our heart, soul, and mind.**

**We know we have neglected our neighbor
and failed to share Your love.**

**Forgive us, melt us, mold us, transform us,
and make us into more faithful followers of Jesus.**

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 29

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. ³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!' ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever. ¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

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.

SOLO

As the Wind Song (Hymn 292)

Lauren Godsey

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 3:1-7

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above."

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

Nicodemus Revisited

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

*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 724 *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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 MINISTER WILL BE ON VACATION NEXT WEEK, with his son, his Houston daughter and her family (including his granddaughter!), Kay, and her daughter and granddaughter! Many wonderful family activities are planned! In his absence, Felicia Parcell, one of Presbytery's Commissioned Lay Pastors, will lead us in worship.

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. You can also contact Volunteer Coordinator Harlee McKinney at 540-343-7227 ext. 7628 or email at 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!

The 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
Next Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am	Pilgrimage Sunday School Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Russ Merritt, Pastor
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Ministers...Members of Northminster

Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Lauren Axelson, Nursery Attendant

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