

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

March 6, 2022
First Sunday in Lent

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91; Romans 10:8b-13

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

MOMENT FOR MISSION

*HYMN OF PRAISE 166 *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: God of mystery, we celebrate the unknown.

Congregants: God of happiness, we share our joy.

Minister: God of welcome, we offer hospitality.

Congregants: God of growth, we seek to flourish.

Minister: God of community, we embrace friendships.

Congregants: God of imagination, we find You in art and beauty.

Minister: Let us come as the community of faith, to worship God!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of mercy, Lord of love, King of the cosmos,
be with us now as we gather in Your holy name.**

**May Your Word take root in our hearts,
and bear fruit in our lives to Your honor and glory.**

Help us to be present with You in this time.

**Free our hearts and minds from earthly challenges,
and enable us to receive Your message for us.**

**As we move into this Lenten season of Christ's passion,
may Your love be written on our spirits and in our lives.**

**We know well how often we choose easier paths,
turn away from Your voice, and focus on ourselves.**

**Forgive us, Lord, and let us know of Your strength and peace.
Lift us from worry and sinfulness, and cover us in grace,
so that we might once again follow the path of discipleship.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 576 *Lord, Have Mercy*

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD II Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom* (Hymn 174)

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' ³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, "How

many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²²But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" ³¹Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." ' "

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

RECONSIDERING A FAMILIAR STORY

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

*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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution
Sharing the Bread and the Cup
Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 718 *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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The flowers in the sanctuary are given by the Presbyterian Women to the glory of God and in memory of members who have entered the Church Triumphant.

Verse for the Month: Deuteronomy 10:14 Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Circle 1 meets Tuesday, March 8th at 10:00 am at the Church.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will meet **next Thursday, March 17**, at 8:30 at Famous Anthony's. All men are encouraged to join us.

It's Hunger Buster time! If you would like to participate, pick up a bag in the narthex. We will take all bags to the Presbyterian Community Center on March 21st.

The PW are launching their annual Sunnyside Project for the month of March. We will be collecting (sundries/toiletries) for the men and women who reside at Sunnyside. The items may include lotions, shampoo, bath soap, deodorant, shaving cream, after shave, toothpaste, mouthwash; also, crossword puzzle books, word search books, etc. Collection boxes will be provided in Narthex. Contacts: Sherry Moses or Judy Moore. Please help us make this project a big success. Many thanks for your participation.

I have found an organization that will take used printer cartridges. It is Angels of Assisi, an animal protection organization. So bring in your used ink printer cartridges and we will recycle them for you. There will be a container on the table in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact Holly Woodson. Thank you.

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

Calendar

Today	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship / Communion
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Next Sunday	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship

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

Jessee Amos	Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey
Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer	Jim Cregger
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	Helen Taylor	Jo Ann Threlkeld

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)
Terry Foss (Sherry Moses)
John Morris (Sherry Moses)
Dan Kiser (Tim and Karen Smith)

***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