

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

May 1, 2022
Third Sunday of Easter



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; Isaiah 61:1-3; Acts 9:1-6

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG (unison)

**This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made!
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made!
We will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE 234 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Children of God--this is what we are.

Congregants: People of God--this is who we are.

Minister: Give thanks to God, for He is good.

Congregants: The love of God is now and forever.

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Good Shepherd, God of caring and compassion,
You are the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth.
We gather before You in this time and place to give You praise,
to bow before You in worship, to follow where You lead.
You have created us to glorify and enjoy You forever,
and have made us for resurrection living.
Forgive us when we stray from Your path,
when we gloss over the hurt and chaos of this world,
when we become caustic, cynical, or despairing.
Forgive us, and help us to live as a people
shaped by Your voice, by Your hope, and by Your reign.
Give us strength and vision to step out and follow.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 236 *The Strife Is O'er*

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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 John 10:7-18

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. ¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

*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 246 *Christ Is Alive!*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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We welcome and thank Nick Leitch today for leading the music.

Thought for the month of May:

The Lord made the earth, using his wisdom. He set the sky in place, using his understanding. With his knowledge, he made springs flow into rivers and the clouds drop rain on the earth. Proverbs 3: 19-20

Earth Care: Since we are now in the mowing season follow this "green" tip. When you mow, "grasscycle" by leaving grass clippings on your lawn instead of bagging them. The clippings will return nutrients to the soil instead of taking up space in the landfills.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday during our morning worship service. Please be in prayerful preparation as we approach the Lord's table of grace.

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. You can leave them in the narthex.

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 Worship Service
Next Sunday	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School 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	Bernie Barger
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	Helen Taylor
Jo Ann Threlkeld		

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)
Terry Foss (Sherry Moses)
John Morris (Sherry Moses)

***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