

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

May 8, 2022
Fourth 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

Acts 9:36-43; Isaiah 53:1-6; Revelation 7:9-17

(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 488 *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 118)

Minister: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregants: We praise our God! He has answered
and has become our salvation.**

Minister: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**Congregants: This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,
You have shattered the power of sin and death.
Help us this day to focus on You, and You alone.
Guide us in our worship as we seek to follow Your path,
to hear Your voice, to know Your will.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to brokenness and death.
Be with us now, touch our hearts and minds and spirits,
and forgive us of our sinfulness, we pray.
Help us to trust in Your power to change lives,**

**that we may know the joy of life abundant in Christ.
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 Hosea 11:1-9

¹When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ²The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. ³Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. ⁴I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. ⁵They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. ⁶The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. ⁷My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. ⁸How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. ⁹I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

I Want to Be as Close to You

Hal Hopson (Hymn 736)

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 12:46-50

⁴⁶While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷Someone told him, 'Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.' ⁴⁸But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' ⁴⁹And pointing to his disciples,

he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

MOTHER'S DAY REFLECTIONS

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 44 *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us*

*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 522 *I Am the Bread of Life*

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.

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 during our morning worship service. Please be in prayerful preparation as we approach the Lord's table of grace.

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

The Red Sox baseball team is hosting their Faith and Family night on Wednesday, June 22nd. The Discipleship committee thought this would be a great chance to get families together for a night of fellowship. We will get a block of reserved tickets. Please let Susie know if your family is interested in attending. The tickets will be paid for and all you have to do is pick them up and join us at the ball field.

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.

