



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

November 13, 2022
Twenty third 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

Isaiah 65:17-25; Malachi 4:1-2a; II Thessalonians 3:6-13

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

May the presence of Christ be with you, this day and always.

GATHERING HYMN 336 *We Gather Together*

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Sing to the Lord, all you faithful!

Give thanks to God's holy name.

**Congregants: God has turned our darkness into light,
our mourning into dancing, and clothes us with joy!**

Minister: Our hearts sing out praise to God without ceasing!

**Congregants: O Lord our God,
we will always give You thanks!**

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 463 *How Firm a Foundation*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, You alone are our Source of strength and comfort.

In You we find mercy, in You we find direction, in You we find life.

**As we gather this day to remember Your goodness and hear Your Word,
plant Your grace deep in our hearts, that it might take root and bear fruit.**

**Bless this worship service, bless the faithful who come together,
bless those who come with need, bless those who seek to serve.**

**We confess that we so often fall into sin and self-interest,
and that we are not worthy of Your presence and love.**

**We pray for the presence of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ,
in whom we find our salvation and redemption,
and to whom we seek to give our lives and to follow.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 538 *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
(Repeat)**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Joel 2:23-3:2

²³ O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. ²⁴ The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵ I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁸ Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. ³⁰ I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. ³² Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls. ² For then, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will enter into judgement with them there, on account of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations. They have divided my land,

PASTORAL PRAYER / 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.

ANTHEM

Thou Visitest the Earth

Maurice Greene

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 18:9-14

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." ¹³But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Minister)

Your Word is the light unto our feet that we need in our darkness.

Illuminate our path now, we pray, O God. Open our minds,

our hearts, our spirits for the moving of Your Holy Spirit,

that we will be drawn closer to You, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SERMON

OPEN TO THE UNEXPECTED

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*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 353 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought for the Month:

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or ask the birds of the air, and they will tell you. Speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea tell you. Every one of these knows that the hand of the Lord has done this. The life of every creature and the breath of all people are in God's hand. Job 12:7-10

Earth Care:

After the Thanksgiving season you will likely have leftovers. A great way to be a steward to the Earth is to consume your food. Did you know that Americans throw away 25% of the food they buy? By eating your leftovers, you are not only saving money but also preventing energy waste from food production. Not to mention you are keeping them from taking up space in a landfill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Anne Huff announces the birth of a great grandson Ryan Benjamin Mays born November 4, 2022. Katie and Daniel are the proud parents. The grandparents are Anne and Ben Mays.

Advent devotional booklets are available for pick-up. You can find yours on the narthex table. If you don't see an envelope with your name on it, please contact Lynn Kirby or the church office and we will get one to you.

The Discipleship ministry made the decision this year to concentrate our efforts on the surrounding community. Because of this decision, we will not be participating in Operation Christmas Child. We do hope to work Round Hill Elementary School. We have been in contact with the principal there, Dr. Brenda Russ. One thing we are doing is sending money to support kids who cannot afford field trip fees. Our money will also go to purchase items to help settle children with ADD, ADHD or other anxiety issues. We have also talked about doing a movie night, helping with landscaping around the school, and supporting teachers with a breakfast or lunch in December. In addition to working with Round Hill students, we have sent out postcards to our surrounding neighbors to invite them to our Lessons and Carols and our Christmas Eve services. We hope this will be a way to introduce our church to neighbors who may be looking for a church home.

Thanksgiving is coming fast and it is time for one of our traditional projects – Pies For The Rescue Mission. Each year we provide pies that the Rescue Mission can use for their holiday meal. They can be homemade, frozen or “store-bought” ready to eat and any flavor is fine. Bring them to the church kitchen on Sunday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 20th.

SAVE THE DATE Sunday, November 20th.

After church the Fellowship committee is sponsoring a traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon for our members, their family and friends. Sign up on the form in the Narthex or call Susie in the church office at 540-366-8115 so we will know how many to expect from your family. We want to make sure we have plenty of food for everyone!!

We are looking for volunteers to help Lauren in the nursery each Sunday. if you would like to help, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Bells
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

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
Pam Claterbaugh	Barry Ferrell	Maggie Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer
Sheila Lancaster	Homer Linton	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Ken Riding
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	
Joaquin Bielawski	Annette Daughty
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	Vicki Widener
Jay Taylor	Mary McBee
Owen Merritt	

*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