

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

April 2, 2023
Palm Sunday



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 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 27:11-54

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (Verse 1)

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above, Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 118:26 and Zechariah 9:9))

Minister: Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.

Congregants: Hosanna in the highest!

Minister: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Congregants: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Minister: Lo, your king comes to you,
triumphant and victorious is he.

**Congregants: Humble, and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our King!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 196 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**We praise You, O God, for Your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ,
who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph,
only days later to be crucified by the evils of this world.**

**We confess that on that cross are our sins,
that his body is broken for us, his blood shed on our behalf.**

**In Your great mercy, forgive us, we pray,
and lead us in the way of Christ, not seeking the cheers of others,**

**but taking up our cross, to follow where he leads.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 197 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (Verse 1)

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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.

ANTHEM

He Comes in the Name of the Lord

Mary Kay Beall

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 19:28-42

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it." ' ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' ³⁴They said, 'The Lord needs it.' ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' ⁴⁰He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.' ⁴¹ As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴²saying, 'If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Eternal God, Whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty,
quiet within us every voice but Your own.
Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ,
so that by the power of Your Holy Spirit
we may hear, and know, and obey, and follow,
sharing Christ's love in lives of service to You. Amen.**

THE SERMON

CONFIDENCE AND TEARS

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 200 *A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

**We believe that Jesus Christ, who rode into Jerusalem on a donkey,
is the Lord of all history and of all people who ever were and ever will be.
We believe he came to save us from our sin,
and to restore us to our Father God.
We believe that he took on himself the punishment for our sinfulness,
that he was cruelly treated, that he was put to death on a cross,
and that he was buried in a borrowed tomb.**

We believe that God raised him from the dead, and that in his resurrection is the promise of ours, and life eternal in God's Kingdom.
We believe that he is present in our midst today, comforting our sorrows, showing us the way to tomorrow, and challenging us to follow where he leads.
We believe the day will come when the entire world will be his, and he will reign in glory as the Restorer and Reconciler of all that is separated from God, and that we will give him our love and praise forever and ever.
Amen.

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 198 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Earth Care:

Read Psalm 31. As we think about Christ's journey this Holy Week, may we recognize the lament, grief, and despair of the world around us. Climate injustice, poverty, hunger and human suffering seem insurmountable. May we pray and cry out to God, as Jesus taught us, trusting that God hears us.

Thought for the month:

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUSS AND KAY share our deepest appreciation with all our church family for everything you have done in celebrating our marriage and starting our life together under the wings of your love and your prayers!

Circle 2 will meet at Shakers Restaurant on Monday, April 3rd at 6:00 pm.

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE LAST SUPPER OF JESUS at our Maundy Thursday worship service, this Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 at the front of the sanctuary. The service will include the sacrament of holy communion, and the traditional "stripping" of the sanctuary.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday--Easter--during our morning worship service. Please be in prayer and preparation as you gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord around his Table of grace.

The Discipleship Ministry delivered \$300 worth of school supplies to teachers at Round Hill Elementary. One of the missions of our ministry is to connect and help our surrounding community. With this donation, we help both teachers and students. You can find the thank you note from the students on the bulletin board across from the church office. Thank you to the members of our congregation who donated money for school supplies!

Kids, Lenten activity books are available to use during church. You can find them on the pew outside of the church doors.

For those who would like to participate in our Hunger Buster for PCC, please pick up a bag from the narthex. You can put any non-perishable items in the bag. Covenant Presbyterian provided them with cans of soup from their Souper Bowl so soup is not needed at this time. If you buy items, just staple the receipt on the outside of the bag so they have an accounting of what was donated. Leave your bags in the narthex. We will take the bags to PCC on April 3rd. Thanks for your support in this mission.

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
Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 at Shakers Restaurant
Thursday	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Easter 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	Frances Bowling
Pam Claterbaugh	Barry Ferrell	Joe Gwitt
Karen Gwitt	Maggie Hambrick	Jake Hayes
Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer	Sheila Lancaster
Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Ken Riding	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Dora Slee	Helen Taylor	Patsy Linton and Family

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	
Joaquin Bielawski	Annette Daughy
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	Vicki Widener
Jay Taylor	Lucy Collier

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Tom Hale, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Daniel Kirby, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Dora Slee, Gayle Wise

