

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

April 23, 2023
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

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 34:1-10; I Peter 1:17-23

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna* (Verse 1)

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 90)

Minister: Lord, You have been our refuge age after age.

Congregants: Before the mountains were born,

You were God from all eternity and forever.

Minister: Let us wake in the morning filled with Your love,
and sing and be joyful all our days.

**Congregants: Let Your children see Your glory,
with our lives in Your hands.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God.

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

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**We give You our praise and thanksgiving, O God,
for Your goodness throughout our lives.**

**You are with us each moment of every day,
providing and protecting, guiding and calling.**

**Through Jesus Christ we know salvation,
and in Your Holy Spirit we find Your grace and mercy.**

**We confess that we do not always live to Your glory,
and that too often we follow sinful paths.**

**In Your mercy, forgive us, we pray.
Grant us the wisdom to follow Your way,
and to strive to live as disciples of our Lord.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 236 *The Strife Is O'er* (Verse 1)
Refrain: Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!

**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 40:1-5

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ² He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. ⁴ Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. ⁵ You have multiplied, O Lord my God, our wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

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

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 14:15-21

¹⁵ 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON *FOLLOWING OUR MYSTERIOUS LORD* Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 526 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

*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!*

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

Today we begin a new hymn, 526 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*. The choir sang an anthem version of this hymn last Sunday. Our hymnal notes "this 'communion calypso' (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians."

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EARTH CARE: Caring for the earth responsibly is a wonderful way to give thanks to God for the amazing gift we've been given. I invite you to reflect on all the ways that we and our church are being a good steward of creation. I also invite you to think about how we could be even better stewards of the earth and all that God has entrusted to our care. Andrew Breeden. Recycle and reuse.

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

To the Wonderful Northminster Family, Thank you for the food, prayers, visits and cards. Also thank you for the trouble of finding food that I could eat. I've never known such love and support then what I've received from the church family. God Bless You and I love everyone of you. Lois Waddell

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CONGREGATION will meet this Sunday, April 23, following the morning worship service. Lunch will be served. ALL MEMBERS are encouraged to consider joining one of the Ministries, to share in the work of the church!

Earth Day was Saturday, April 22 and I would like to pass on some information that is active in our town. The web site is www.sustainableroanoke.org. They collect everything from plastic to electronics and collect those items 3-4 times a year. Check out their website for further information. Let us take care of God's creation.

“Thank you” to all that participated in our Sunnyside collection, It was a huge success and we collected 200 items. Jennifer Holden a representative of Sunnyside attended our Circle 1 meeting and shared information about the Sunnyside programs.

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!

We will **NOT** be collecting used medicine bottles anymore. Angels of Assassi no longer is in need of them. If anyone knows of another use for them, please let me know. Holly

This is a reminder that the Session has a bulletin board located across from the Secretary’s office. The minutes from the Stated Session Meetings and a copy of the monthly Financial Report are posted. Other information in reference to the Session, Elders, committees, etc. can be seen there. Please take time to check out the business of the church.

If you and your family would like to participate in the 2 cents a meal program, please pick up a box in the narthex. You will also find an explanation of what the 2 cents a meal is all about. Our church received grant money from this fund to help defray expenses to put food in our Blessing Box. Once your box is full, you can return it to the church.

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.

We are collecting devotional material to be delivered to jails and shelters. If you have any that you are done with, don't throw it away, donate it! You can place your devotional material in the box located in the narthex.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Ministries Meeting
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	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 Daughty
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	Vicki Widener
Jay Taylor	Lucy Collier
Gladys Hughston	

***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

