

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

April 30, 2023
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

Psalm 100; Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10

(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 46)

Minister: God is our refuge and our strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Congregants: Therefore, we will not fear,
even though the earth should shake and change.**

Minister: Even though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
even though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear.

**Congregants: Even though the mountains tremble,
we will not fear, for God's love endures forever.**

Minister: So come, let us worship the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 238 *Thine Is the Glory*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty Father, Faithful Spirit, Redeeming Son,
we come before You in worship and adoration,
giving You all praise and thanksgiving.**

**In Your goodness You have blessed us abundantly,
and we praise You for all Your gifts.**

We know well that we are not worthy of Your love,

**and yet Your grace is bountiful and all-sufficient.
While we have not loved You with our whole hearts,
You have offered us forgiveness in Jesus Christ.
So with repentant spirits we pray for Your mercy,
and ask Your presence with us in our gathering,
that we might be strengthened for our journey.
Accompany us on the path You have set for us,
forgive us when we stumble, encourage us in discipleship,
restore us to wholeness, and embrace us in love.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God has sent His Son to dispel our darkness.
In him alone there is light and life for all people.
Through Christ, our sinfulness is forgiven,
and we are reconciled to God, made new in His Spirit.
Blessed be the name of the Lord! Amen.

***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 I Corinthians 15:20-28

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.' But when it says, 'All things are put in subjection', it is plain that this does not include the

one who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

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

arr. Kevin McChesney

Morning Has Broken and Come, Christians, Join to Sing

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD I Corinthians 15:54-58

⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be ⁵⁵ 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

Minister: This is the Word of God.

Congregants: Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of abundant life, our Savior and Friend,

Your grace is our daily bread.

**Nourish us now by Your Word and fill us with Your Spirit,
so that we may grow in faith and love.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Living Word, we pray.

Amen.

THE SERMON

THE RIGHT SIDE OF EASTER

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and my Lord and Savior. I believe that he came to save us from our sinfulness, and to reconcile us to the Father. I believe he was put to death on the cross, taking on himself my guilt, and that he was buried and sealed in the tomb. I believe God raised him from the dead, and that in his resurrection is the promise of eternal life for me and others who follow his path. I believe that Christ is present in our midst today through the Holy Spirit, comforting our sorrows, strengthening our commitments, guiding our steps, and calling us to life in his Kingdom. I believe the day will come when the entire world will be his, and he will reign in glory, receiving our love forever and ever. Amen.

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 269 *Lead On, O King Eternal!*

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

We continue to sing a new hymn, 526 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*. 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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELEN TAYLOR has joined the Church Triumphant, following a courageous battle against failing health. While we are saddened by this loss, we thank God for her fellowship and service with us, and praise His goodness that she is now free from her pain, and is in His loving embrace. A special service of remembrance, and witness to the resurrection, will be held Saturday morning, May 13, at 11:00 in the chapel at Friendship Manor.

Circle 2 will meet on Monday, May 1st at 6:00 pm at the home of Lynn Kirby.

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

A CHURCH REVIVAL sponsored by several area congregations (including Northminster) will be held this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in Huff Lane Park across from the church. There will be special preaching and music each evening. Everyone is invited to attend.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday in our morning worship service. Please be in prayer and spiritual preparation as we approach the Lord's Table of grace.

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS will hold its quarterly meeting this coming Saturday, May 6, beginning at 9:00 at Campbell Memorial Church in Vinton. Representatives from 112 Presbyterian congregations across Southside and Southwest Virginia are invited. Our Session's representative is Pam Claterbaugh.

Hey Kids, mark your calendars. On June 11th from 4-6 PM, we will gather at the church for some fun and fellowship. We will have a bounce house, water balloons, and games. We will work on a service project together and end our evening with pizza and drinks. Be sure to bring a friend.

The Discipleship Ministry has a challenge for the congregation. We are now collecting tab tops. When all the glass containers are filled with tabs we will take them to the Ronald McDonald House. The containers are located on the table in the

narthex. This will be an ongoing project, so save your tab tops and bring them to church and fill the glass containers.

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.

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 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 with Lynn Kirby
Next Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service /Communion

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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	Jake Hayes	Barbara Jones
Dennis Kincer	Sheila Lancaster	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Ken Riding
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Dora Slee
Lois Waddell	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

