

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

February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 112:1-10; I Corinthians 2:1-16

(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 630 *Fairest Lord Jesus* (Verse 4)

**Beautiful Savior,
Ruler of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: In Christ, the promises of God are fulfilled.

Congregants: In Christ, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Minister: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Congregants: All that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Minister: By the mercy of Christ, we are made clean.

Congregants: By the grace that is ours in God, we are loved.

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 722 *Live into Hope*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Faithful God, holy God, almighty God,
we gather in this time and place to give You praise,
to thank You for Your love, Your gifts, Your calling,
to listen for Your Word, to obey Your Will,
and to worship with heart, mind, and spirit.
Be with us, speak to us, comfort us,
that we might grow in our love and knowledge and faith.
In our self-centered sinfulness, we fall far short of Your glory.**

**Forgive us, and draw us closer to the path of Jesus.
May this time together and with You be blessed by Your Spirit.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from II Corinthians 5:17)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The past is left behind, and everything has become new.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Praise be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 436

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us (Verse 3)

**How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Colossians 1:1-7

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 15:1-7, 11-32

¹Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

¹¹ Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." ²²But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you

have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” ³¹Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy God, by the power of Your Holy Spirit,
reveal Your Will to us and for us this day.**

**Help us to understand Your transforming and redemptive work,
and lead us into the world to share the love of Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

GRACE

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 649 *Amazing Grace*

*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 802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

I am ever so grateful to Northminster folks for your prayers, cards, calls, visits, and food. You helped me make a quick recovery from the ER and Rehab. Thank you. Fran Bowling

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held Thursday morning, February 16, at 8:30 at Famous Anthony's Restaurant on north Williamson Road next to Brookside Golf Course. All men in the congregation are invited to join us!

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM will be celebrated. next Sunday, February 19, during the morning worship service, for Camdyn Cundiff, daughter of Trent and Emma Cundiff and sister of Easton and Brycen Cundiff (and granddaughter of Greg and Margie Cundiff, and great-granddaughter of Stan and Elise Lanford!).

WOW! What a great response for our Souper Bowl. We collected eleven pounds of food and \$360 for the LOA. Many thanks to our soup makers! They all looked delicious and tasted even better.

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS will hold its quarterly meeting, via Zoom, this Thursday morning, February 16. Jyke Jones will be our elder representative for the meeting.

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.

The PW are launching their annual SunnySide project beginning this week 01/29/23 to run through February and March. We will be collecting sundries/toiletries for the men and women who reside at SunnySide. Boxes will be provided in the Narthex. Please help us make this another successful project. Contact persons: Sherry Moses or Judy Moore. Many thanks for your participation.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast
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Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

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	Maggie Hambrick	Jake Hayes
Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer	Sheila Lancaster
Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Ken Riding	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
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

***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

