

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

February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent



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

Genesis 2:15-17; Matthew 4:1-11

(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 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days (Verses 1 and 3)

**Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins
and close by you to stay.**

**And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 32)

Minister: Blessed is the person whose fault is forgiven,
whose sin is blotted out.

**Congregants: Blessed is the one whom the Lord
accuses of no guilt.**

Minister: Grace enfolds everyone who trusts in God.

**Congregants: Rejoice in the Lord, exult and shout for joy,
for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 169 *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Heavenly Father, God of grace and glory,
we gather now in praise and worship
seeking Your presence, Your truth, Your mercy.**

**In the living of these days, we need You with us.
Give us Your strength, Your peace, Your love.
As we come before Your throne, we seek forgiveness.
We have followed the desires of our own hearts,
and we have neglected the needs of others.
Turn us to Christ and his path of righteousness,
and guide our steps in mission and ministry.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Christ has transformed us. Christ has renewed us.
We are made clean and sinless before God,
through the blood of Christ. In his death and resurrection,
we are made ready to sing His glory and testify to His grace.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Praise be to God!

RESPONSE HYMN 576 *Lord, Have Mercy

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Romans 12:14-21

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' ²⁰No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹ Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Merciful God, transforming Holy Spirit, loving Savior,
guide us into and through Your Word,
so that we might be shaped by Your message
and strengthened for service in Your world.
Through Christ the Living Word we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

FORGIVENESS

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 372 *O for a World*

*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 547 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought for the Month:

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently, nourish the life of the world in our care: gift or great wonder, ours to surrender, trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

Vs. 1 From Hymn, Touch the Earth Lightly

Earth Care:

Make a pledge for the new year to eliminate waste wherever you can. Use less and recycle. Go for glass and reusable containers instead of plastic bags and wraps. When shopping take useable bags.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CONGREGATION will meet today 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!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated at the Lord's Table next Sunday, March 5, during the morning worship service. Please be in prayer and preparation as we gather to share in God's goodness.

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

Lenten devotional books are available in the narthex. There are 2 to choose from. Please take one per family.

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.

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.

AS A REMINDER: we are collecting **used ink cartridges** (all sizes) **and used medicine bottles** that must be clean and have the labels removed. The container is on the table in the Narthex. These items will go to Angels of Assisi in Roanoke.

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 / 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
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

