

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

January 15, 2023
Second 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

BELL PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; John 1:29-42

(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* (Verses 1 and 3)

**Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish,
thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter;
Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: When we pass through the waters--

Congregants: God is there with us.

Minister: When we suffer and feel hopeless--

Congregants: God is there with us.

Minister: When we are joyful and celebrate--

Congregants: God is there with us.

Minister: Whether we feel triumphant or defeated--

Congregants: God is there with us, always.

Minister. God is here with us, so let us come to Him in worship.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)**

**Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
is the light of the world, the living Word.**

**We come now before You in praise and thanksgiving,
seeking Your presence, Your grace, Your healing.**

Be with us now in our worship.

**Forgive us of our sinfulness, we pray,
for we so often leave Your path and go astray.**

**Let us shine with the radiance of Christ's glory,
so that his love will be known by all.**

**Touch us in this hour, speak to us, transform us,
for we seek to be Your disciples.**

Hear these our private prayers.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***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 Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way

is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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 *Healer of Our Every Ill* Hymn 795

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' ³⁸ He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Open our hearts, O Lord.
Open our minds, open our spirits,
so that Your Holy Spirit
might shine Your light into our darkness,
and bring us closer to You.
Through Christ who is the true Light. Amen.**

THE SERMON

THE SCHIZOMAI GOD

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 43 *You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord*

*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 686 *God of Our Life*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

Today we begin to sing a new hymn, 686, which ties in with today's lesson from Isaiah.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION HAS BEEN CALLED for Sunday, January 29, at the end of the morning worship service, to receive the annual budget and to elect persons to serve on the congregational Nominating Committee.

THE MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will meet this Thursday, January 19th, at 8:30 at Famous Anthony's on Williamson RD.

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING Next week on Sunday, January 22, following the morning worship service. If you would like to join the Northminster membership, or if you have matters to bring before the elders, please contact the Minister.

Join us for our Souper Bowl luncheon on February 5th after church. Soup and sandwiches will be served. If you would like to volunteer to bring soup for the luncheon, please let Lynn Kirby know.

The Souper Bowl supports the LOA for Seniors. During the month of January through the 5th of February, we will be collecting soup, crackers, ramen noodles, peanut butter or other non-perishable foods. Donations can be left in the narthex. Donations will be taken to the collection site on February 6th.

I am reaching out to invite you to join me in celebrating you all! Northminster Presbyterian recently made a generous gift of \$725 to the [Presbyterian Giving Catalog](#), and we are beyond grateful. I'm reaching out to let you know that we noticed, we are thankful, and wanted to **ask you to share any story and/or pictures you might have associated with your gift**. Thank you for your ministry. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you ever have any questions regarding the Giving Catalog or Special Offerings. I look forward to hearing back from you. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Have a blessed day, **Melanie Roney** Mission Specialist, East Special Offerings & Presbyterian Giving Catalog

The Ronald McDonald House has collected tab tops for many years. Both Northminster and Green Ridge Collected in the past. We are now collecting all tab tops for the Ronald McDonald House. Please start saving them now. Put a container in your kitchen and start collecting today.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Annual Meeting

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
Homer Linton	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Ken Riding	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith		

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	
Joaquin Bielawski	Annette Daughty
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	Vicki Widener
Jay Taylor	
Owen Merritt	

*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

