

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

*January 22, 2023*  
*Third 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 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-23

(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.

INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED ELDERS

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: We gather this morning in faith  
to worship God the Father, the Creator,  
steadfast as a rock in His eternal Will.

**Congregants: We come together today in joy  
to worship God the Son, the Redeemer,  
mercifully forgiving us through his sacrifice.**

Minister: We come to this time and place in love,  
to worship God the Holy Spirit, Ever-Present,  
our strength and guidance for the living of these days.

**Congregants: We come together in adoration, in praise,**

**in thanksgiving, in anticipation of God's Word and grace.**  
Minister: So come, let us worship our God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 774 *There is Now a New Creation*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of the prophets, God of the apostles,  
God of men and women of faith through the centuries,  
God of each new life touched by Your love,  
God of young and old, of great and small,  
God of man and woman and child:  
we gather now before You seeking Your presence.  
We are so often surprised and amazed by Your blessings.  
When we least expect it, when we least deserve it,  
we find Christ walking our path with us, carrying us on.  
We know all too well how we stray from that path,  
how we follow our own broken and sinful roads.  
Forgive us, we pray, and bring us anew into Your Way.  
Let us know our Lord, love our Lord, and follow our Lord.  
Hear these our silent 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 Genesis 12:1-5a

<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and

Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

#### 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                      *Jesus, the Light of the World*

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD    John 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

*BEING BORN AGAIN*

Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 634 *To God Be the Glory*

\*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

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Today, we continue to sing a new hymn, 686 God of Our Life.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME NEW ELDERS JUDY MOORE AND CHUCK LOCKARD back on Session, following their installation in the service this morning

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION HAS BEEN CALLED for nest Sunday morning at the end of the worship service, to elect persons to the congregation's Nominating Committee and to receive information about our 2023 budget. You are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING TODAY 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Annual Meeting
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Congregation Meeting

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
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

