

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

May 21, 2023
Seventh 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 68: 1-10, 32-35, Acts 1: 6-14

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) Psalm 68

Minister: Sing to God.

Congregants: Sing praises to God's name.

Minister: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

Congregants: Sing praises to the Lord.

Minister: Let us worship God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

We confess, O God, that too often we have our head in the clouds. We are more comfortable with dreaming of the world as we wish it would be instead of working with you to bring that wish to reality. At times, we find it difficult to claim the power you have given us. Surely you have others more capable to be your witnesses? And so, we continue to gaze heavenwards. Jolt us out of our complacency, O God. Remind us to get a move on. Remind us we have work to do with you. Give us your energy, courage, and vision to be your witnesses to the end of the earth. Hear these now our silent prayers.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are God's people created, loved and forgiven. The God of all grace has called us by name. God will restore, support, strengthen and establish us. It is good news to celebrate. We are forgiven!

*RESPONSE HYMN 239 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*
(Verse 1)

**Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 68

¹ Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. ² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. ³ But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. ⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the Lord—be exultant before him. ⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. ⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. ⁷ O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah ⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. ⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; ¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy. ¹¹ The Lord gives the command; great is the company of those who bore the tidings: ¹² 'The kings of the armies, they flee, they flee!' The women at home divide the spoil, ¹³ though they stay among the sheepfolds—the wings of a dove covered with silver, its pinions with green gold. ¹⁴ When the Almighty scattered kings there, snow fell on Zalmon. ¹⁵ O mighty mountain, mountain of Bashan; O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan! ¹⁶ Why do you look with envy, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount that God desired for his abode, where the Lord will reside for ever? ¹⁷ With mighty chariotry, twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands, the Lord came from Sinai into the holy place. ¹⁸ You ascended the high mount, leading captives in your train and receiving gifts from people, even from those who rebel against the Lord God's abiding there. ¹⁹ Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah ²⁰ Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belongs escape from death. ²¹ But God will shatter the heads of his enemies, the hairy crown of those who walk in their guilty ways. ²² The Lord said, 'I will bring them back from Bashan, I will bring them back from the

depths of the sea, ²³ so that you may bathe your feet in blood, so that the tongues of your dogs may have their share from the foe.’ ²⁴ Your solemn processions are seen, O God, the processions of my God, my King, into the sanctuary—²⁵ the singers in front, the musicians last, between them girls playing tambourines: ²⁶ ‘Bless God in the great congregation, the Lord, O you who are of Israel’s fountain!’ ²⁷ There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead, the princes of Judah in a body, the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali. ²⁸ Summon your might, O God; show your strength, O God, as you have done for us before. ²⁹ Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings bear gifts to you. ³⁰ Rebuke the wild animals that live among the reeds, the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples. Trample under foot those who lust after tribute; scatter the peoples who delight in war. ³¹ Let bronze be brought from Egypt; let Ethiopia hasten to stretch out its hands to God. ³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, Selah ³³ O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. ³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies. ³⁵ Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people.

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

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Hal H. Hopson

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD’S WORD John 17: 1-11

¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ ‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that

you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

Spirit of Glory, Spirit of God, bless us with a word of life this day to restore, support, and strengthen us as we seek to be one with you. Amen

THE SERMON

To Be As One

Pam Claterbaugh

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 463 *How Firm a Foundation*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (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 384 *Soon and Very Soon*

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

On June 4th, we will be recognizing our high school and college graduates. If you have a loved one who is graduating, please send Lynn Kirby a note with the school they are graduating from, any honors from that school and what they will be doing next. We love our kids and want to recognize their hard work. You can email the information to lkirby7009cox.net.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, in our morning worship service.

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.

GUESS WHAT!! We are again collecting clean medicine bottles. Thanks to Marie we have another source for the pill bottles. The Salem Animal Shelter will gladly take what we collect. Make sure they are clean and have the labels removed. Place them in the container on the table in the narthex. Thank you.

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.

Calendar

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

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	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

