

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

May 7, 2023
Fifth 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 119:9-32; Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna* (Verse 1)

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: He is God of creation, God of salvation,
God of our moments and God of eternity.

**Congregants: He is the vine, and we are the branches,
He alone is the Foundation that grounds us.**

Minister: He enlightens us with the wisdom of His Spirit,
and He plants us in the soil of His grace.

**Congregants: He builds this community of faith,
and He calls our fellowship into praise and service.**

Minister: So let us come together, and worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

God of bright stars and endless galaxies,

God of towering mountains and deep oceans,

God of soaring eagles and splashing dolphins,

God of springtime rains and autumn leaves,

You alone are Lord of abundance and grace,

and we come before You now in worship.

You know us well, better than we know ourselves.

You know our shortcomings, our failings, our sinfulness.

You know our need for Your mercy and forgiveness.

**You know us, and still You love us, and make us anew.
Fill us with Your Spirit, we pray, and guide us on Your path.
May we be the people of Jesus, following where he leads.
Hear there our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*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 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat. ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD I Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

**God of abundant life, Your grace is our daily bread.
Nourish us now by Your Word, and fill us with Your Spirit,
so that we may grow in faith and love.
Through Jesus Christ, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

BUILT BY GOD

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 300

We Are One in the Spirit

*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.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Hymn 526 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 717 *For the Life That You Have Given*

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by the Presbyterian Women to the glory of God and in memory of members who have entered the Church Triumphant.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARUMA WARREN HAS JOINED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT, following a brief illness and hospitalization. We mourn the loss of our Christian sister, while celebrating the promise that she has been accepted into her heavenly home with rejoicing. A special worship service, giving thanks for Maruma's life and witness to the resurrection, will be held tomorrow Monday, May 8th, at 2:00 p.m. at Blue Ridge Gardens.

HELEN TAYLOR has joined the Church Triumphant, following a courageous battle against failing health. While we are saddened by this loss, we thank God for her fellowship and service with us, and praise His goodness that she is now free from her pain, and is in His loving embrace. A special service of remembrance, and witness to the resurrection, will be held Saturday morning, May 13, at 11:00 in the chapel at Friendship Manor.

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, May 9th at 10:00 am at the church.

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.

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 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service / Communion
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Next Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School 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

