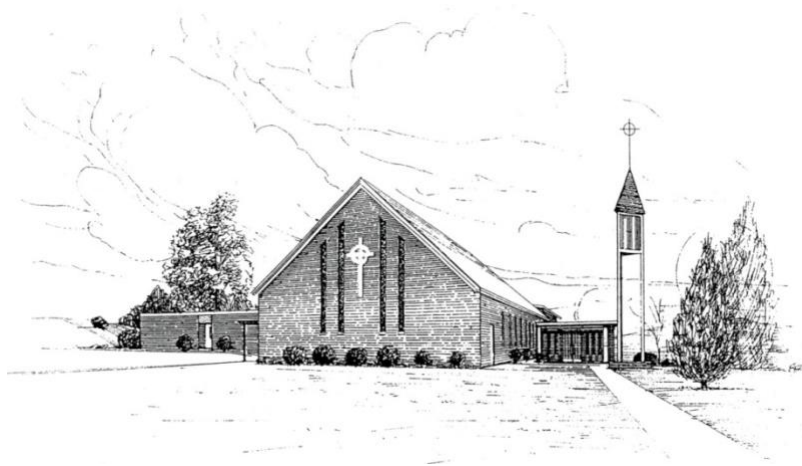


NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

August 18, 2024
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



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

I Kings 2:10-12 and 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

May the hope that is ours in Christ be with you.

GATHERING HYMN 2 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

Come, thou almighty King,

help us thy name to sing;

help us to praise:

Father, all glorious,

o'er all victorious,

come, and reign over us,

Ancient of Days.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 19)

Minister: May the words from our mouths

be pleasing to You, O God.

Congregants: May the music that rings through our hearts

be acceptable in Your sight, our Lord.

Minister: The skies tell of Your glory all over the world.

Congregants: You fill our days with joy,

and You fill our lives with light.

Minister: Come, let us worship God Almighty.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal God, we gather now with You in worship,

seeking to hear Your Word and to discern Your call.

Incline Your ear to us as we share before Your throne

our prayers, concerns, thanksgivings, and confessions.

You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless.

**But even as we benefit from Your amazing grace,
we do not emulate You and Your example for us.
We are quick to condemn, and often act without mercy.
We have gone astray, and confess our many sins to You.
Forgive us, we pray, and set us anew on Your path.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God's love is sure and steadfast, His grace and mercy eternal.
Our sins and shortcomings are not permanent obstacles to Him.
His forgiveness is freely given, and salvation is ours in Christ.
Know and accept this Good News: in grace and mercy, we are His.
Praise be to God!

RESPONSE HYMN 581 *Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

THE 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.

MUSIC VOLUNTARY

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 25:1-13

¹Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." ⁹But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." ¹²But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Our God, as we approach Your Word,
we pray that You open our ears and humble our hearts.
May we listen, discern, and follow the path You intend for us.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

FILLING LAMPS

Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 343

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (Verses 1-4)

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Our God, You bless us with the riches of Your bounty.
We are grateful to be given so much,
that we might live in Your Spirit all our days.
May the offering that we now bring bless others
as we have been blessed. Through Christ. Amen.**

*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 722 *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marie Haines would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love during this challenging time. My surgery went well and I am recovering from Covid too. The prayers, calls, text, and food have been wonderful and an expression of caring for us. Thank you so much.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our morning worship service next Sunday, as part of our "Gathering" special day.

WE WILL RETURN TO OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE on September 1 (Labor Day week-end). The Seekers class will meet at 10:00, and worship will be held at 11:00.

WE ARE GETTING BACK TOGETHER AGAIN TAKE 4 Sunday August 25th, as we celebrate the wonderful fellowship and family of Northminster! The worship service will be special, and there will be a super picnic luncheon following the service. Please make your plans to join us, and please bring your friends, family members, and others! Please be sure to sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Or call the church office and let Susie know. Be sure to wear your blue Northminster t-shirt.

Calendar

Today	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Summer Worship
Next Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Summer Worship / Communion
	11:30 am	Gathering Picnic

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Pastor Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
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

Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling	Ellen Brumfield
Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer	Patsy Linton
Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Vicki Whitworth

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Issac Franklin	Skylar Kirby
Gladys Hughston	Vicki Widener

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dora Slee, Dave Snider, Greg Theimer