

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

*July 14, 2024*  
*Eight 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

II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Mark 6:14-29

(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)

Minister: The Word of God is a light for our path.

**Congregants: His guidance is a lamp for each step.**

Minister: The Table of our Lord is a symbol of His grace.

**Congregants: We gather to hear His Word,  
and to celebrate His goodness at His Table.**

Minister: We come to this place and this time

to offer Him prayers and to sing His praise.

**Congregants: We gather this day to worship our God!**

Minister: Come let us enter His presence.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 462 *I Love to Tell the Story*

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

**Gracious and loving God, Our Redeemer and our Lord,**

**Your care and providence extend to all people.**

**We thank You for being with us in this time and place,**

**and in all times and places where we go forth in life.**

**Despite our many missteps, You are always with us.  
We admit that we are a people always concerned about ourselves.  
We worry about what is ours and how we can get more.  
We have not been guided by Your Spirit or the presence of Christ.  
Forgive us, we pray, and guide us back to Your Way.  
Help us to repent of our sinfulness, and to receive Your grace.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear good news! God's Word assures us,  
that there is no longer any condemnation or punishment  
for all those who are in Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed  
himself for our salvation. Know well that in him,  
you are forgiven, and be at peace. 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 Acts 1:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' <sup>7</sup>He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

**THE PASTORAL PRAYER**

**BELL VOLUNTARY**

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' <sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' <sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' <sup>8</sup>But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' <sup>9</sup>He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**As we consider Your Word for us this day, O God,  
may we be given eyes to see, ears to hear,  
hearts to respond, and spirits to follow.  
May Your Word rest deeply in us,  
and transform us into Your faithful disciples. Amen.**

SERMON

TRUSTING GOD

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 753 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**O God, Christ has been generous to us,  
to the point of death on the cross,  
so work in us that we might be generous as well.  
We thank You for these gifts given this day,  
and for the many more gifts You have provided.**

**May they all be used ever and only to glorify You.  
Through the greatest of gifts, Jesus Christ, we pray. 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.**

**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

Prayer of Dedication

**GO FAITHFULLY**

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION** 295 *Go to the World!*

**\*CHARGE**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**THE POSTLUDE**

**YOUR SERVICE**

\*Indicates the People Standing

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*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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet Thursday, July 18, at 8:30 am at Pete's Deli.

It's Hunger Buster time again. If you would like to participate, pick up a bag from the narthex. We will deliver them to the PCC on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, we are asking for your help in bringing your old or new pillowcases to the church. Jane has run out of pillowcases for the Little Dresses for Africa project. She has made over 300 dresses and wants to make more! We thank her for making the dresses and we are blessed with the talent and gift God has given her for her love of sewing. Thank you, Jane.

OUR SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE HAS BEGUN WITH Sunday school at 9:30 and worship at 10:30. Please make note, and set your clocks accordingly.

### Calendar

Today	9:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Summer Worship / Communion
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast at Pete's Deli
Nest Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Summer Worship

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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	Sheila Lancaster
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	Molly Guerrant
Gladys Hughston	Skylar Kirby
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