

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

May 12, 2024
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 1; Jeremiah 10:1-10a; Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

(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 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.**

Walk with gladness in the morning.

See what love can do and dare.

**Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.**

Jesus is our strong companion.

Joy and peace shall never end.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: The Living God has created and formed each of us.

Congregants: What should we fear, for we have been redeemed.

Minister: God has called us by name, and we are His.

Congregants: When we pass through the storms, God is with us.

Minister: God says, "I am about to do a new thing!"

Congregants: May our hearts and imaginations be open to God's leading.

Minister: May the light of love guide us. Let us worship God with joy!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 624 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Wellspring of life, You have given birth to Creation.

On this Mother's Day we give You thanks

for Your care and nurture for each of us, Your beloved children.

We praise You for Your comfort and compassion,

for the ways You wrap Your divine arms around us,

for the strength of Your embrace as You pull us close,
for the ways You suffer whenever we suffer,
like a mother grieving over the pain of her child.
We pray that Your Church can share that same love
in all that we say and do, in all that we are.
We know well that so often we fail to share Your love.
We invite You into our lives, only to forget and neglect You.
You beckon and call us into Your service and mission,
but we are distracted and busy with other priorities.
Forgive our neglect, and forgive our unfaithfulness.
Focus us on Your Word, on Your presence, on Your grace,
and guide us to celebrate all that Your Spirit provides.
Hear these our silent prayers.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Christ forgives, Christ transforms, Christ renews.
Christ leads us on the path of new beginnings.
We are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory
and to testify to God's goodness and His grace.
Hear this: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise be to God!

RESPONSE HYMN 588 *Alleluia

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! **Congregation: Alleluia, alleluia!**
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GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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.

ANTHEM

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William Bradley Roberts

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Open us, Holy One, to Your Word and Your Way.
Clear our minds of daily distractions.
Fill our hearts with the humility we need
to hear and to receive the message You intend
for us to hear and know and follow this day.
Through Christ, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Dr. Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**With joy and gratitude for all that we have been given,
we bring to You our offerings, God of goodness.**

**You alone are our Maker and Provider,
and You have blessed us with many gifts,
known and beyond our knowing.**

**Use what we offer to You, use what we have gathered,
and use us to bring the love of Christ to this world.**

**We pray through the name of the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

***CHARGE**

***THE BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

***Indicates the People Standing**

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Thought of the month: The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man. Psalm 115:16

Earth care: This is the season of rebirth. Pay attention as buds appear on the trees, seedlings sprout, and animals are born. When you come across these signs of spring, say a blessing (aloud or silently) for God's new creation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are happy to honor Senior, Abbie Caldwell. She is the daughter of Paul and Kim Caldwell. Abbie graduates from Northside High School as a Valedictorian and Early College Scholar. She has played on the Northside softball team for four years and was a part of the 2023 State Championship team. She is also involved in the BETA Club, DECA, Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Young Life. She plans to attend James Madison University in the fall where she will major in Kinesiology and minor in Physical Therapy.

WE WISH A VERY BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY to all the moms in the congregation. May God continue to bless your love and guidance and nurture.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet Thursday, May 16th, at 8:30 am at Pete's Deli.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday--Pentecost--as part of our morning worship.

THE SESSION OF THE CONGREGATION will meet next Sunday following the worship service. All elders--and anyone wishing to share anything with the Session--are reminded to attend.

We delivered 21 bags of food to The Presbyterian Community Center. Thanks to all who donated to the Hunger Buster program!

WE WILL RETURN TO OUR SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE on June 2, when Sunday school will begin at 9:30 and worship at 10:30. Please make note, and set your clocks accordingly.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast at Pete's Deli
Nest Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Service / Communion Session Meeting

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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

Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling
Ellen Brumfield	Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines
Jake Hayes	Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer
Sheila Lancaster	Patsy Linton	Kay Merritt
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	Annette Daughty
Terry Foss	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

