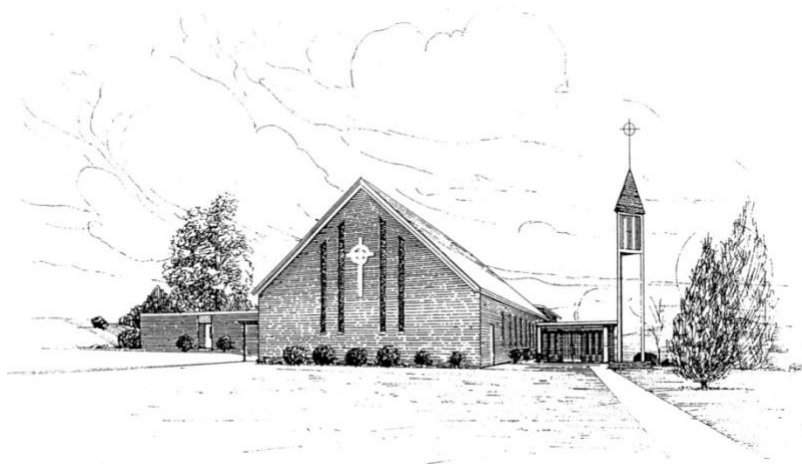


**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day**

*September 8, 2024*  
*Sixteenth 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

Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14: 13-21

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

### BUILDING THE BODY

GATHERING HYMN 408 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* (Verse 1)

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.**

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Minister: A rich feast awaits those who call upon the Lord.

**Congregants:** God offers to us all the bounty of God's love.

Minister: How we have thirsted for hope and peace!

**Congregants:** How we have longed for joy and love!

Minister: God continually blesses and heals us.

All: Praise be to God for God's steadfast love. AMEN.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *O For a Closer Walk with God*  
(from The Hymnbook 319)

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy God, although we honor you with our words and worship, our hearts are often far from you. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others. Hear these our silent prayers.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*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 Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21 <sup>8</sup>The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

<sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. <sup>16</sup> You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. <sup>17</sup> The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. <sup>18</sup> The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. <sup>19</sup> He fulfils the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. <sup>20</sup> The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. <sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

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 *What Is the World Like* (Hymn 771)

Lauren Godsey

What is the world like when God's will is done?  
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:  
Roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.  
This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God's will is done?  
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;  
Peace thrives in places where once there was none.  
This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God's will is done?  
These are the stories that Jesus imparts,  
Filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.  
Born through our voices, our hands and our hearts,  
This is a new world where God's will is done.

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 55: 1-9

<sup>1</sup>Hear, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid and distract ourselves from your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer in this worship moment. Amen

SERMON

*The Invitation*

Pam Claterbaugh

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 418

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. 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 694 *Great God of Every Blessing*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, September 10th, at 10:00 am at the Church.

### IT'S APPLE BUTTER TIME AGAIN!

We will once again gather around the kettle on **Saturday, October 5th**. Mark your calendar and come share in the fellowship anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Reserve your apple butter by signing up on the sheets located across from the secretary's office or by calling our secretary, Susie, at 540-366-8115. If you would have difficulty picking up your order, let Susie know and we'll arrange delivery! No inflation on prices as they remain the same - quarts are \$8.00 and the pints are \$5.00. Remember it's available on a "first come – first served" basis. Please note we have all the jars we need for this year.

### Calendar

|             |          |                |
|-------------|----------|----------------|
| Today       | 10:00 am | Seekers Class  |
|             | 11:00 am | Summer Worship |
| Tuesday     | 10:00 am | Circle 1       |
| Nest Sunday | 10:00 am | Seekers Class  |
|             | 11:00 am | Summer Worship |

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 |
| Dan Cone        |                 |                 |

**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