

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

April 21, 2024
Fourth 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 80:1-7; Zechariah 10:1-12; I John 3:16-24

(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 risen Christ has brought us together,
in this place and in this time.

**Congregants: The Holy Spirit has worked in our lives,
to bring us together in praise and thanksgiving.**

Minister: God Himself is with us, let us now adore Him.

**Congregants: We open our hearts and our spirits
before His mighty throne of grace.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 394 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*
(sung to the tune "Regent Square")

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Holy and everlasting God,

we turn to You now in prayer because we need Your grace,

we need Your guidance, we need Your truth, we need Your way.

**These are complicated and confusing times,
and the problems of this world can be overwhelming.
Be with us now in worship, as we seek Your presence.
Remind us and comfort us with the knowledge
that in life and in death we belong to You, our Savior.
Too often we are slow to follow on Your path,
our resolve to serve You is weak, our sinfulness deep.
Be with us now and let us hear Your voice.
Redeem us, restore us, renew us, and help us to be faithful.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Christ forgives. Christ transforms. Christ renews.
Christ leads us on the path of new beginnings.
In him, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory,
eager to testify to His grace, prepared to obey His Will.
For in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and we have new life.
Praise be to God!

RESPONSE HYMN 236 *The Strife Is O'er

**Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!
Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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

To Glory in the Lord

Susan Naylor Callaway

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD’S WORD John 14:23-27

²³Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ ‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**God our Light, God our guide, God our truth,
guide us into and through Your Word,
so that we might be shaped by the message
from Your Holy Spirit, and transformed
for service in Your world.
Through the risen Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

LOVE AND PEACE

Dr. Merritt

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

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Heavenly Father, You meet our needs
and equip us for Your service.
Accept these our gifts as signs of our gratitude,
and our commitment to Christ's call.
In his name we pray. Amen.**

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from "A Brief Statement of Faith")

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God,
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God,
preaching good news and teaching by word and deed.
He blessed the children, healed the sick,
and binded up the brokenhearted.
He ate with outcasts, forgave sinners,
and called all to repent and follow his path.
Unjustly condemned, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil and death,
and delivering us from death to life eternal with Him.
In Jesus Christ, the risen Lord, we are saved. Alleluia!**

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 372 *O for a World*

*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

Thank you to our dear church family for all the cards, calls, texts, visits, food and especially your prayers and love after my recent surgery. We are thankful and blessed to be a part of this Christian community and family!
Hope Hale

Your are invited to Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church on April 27, 2024 to join the Presbyterian Women for their Spring Gathering. Registration and Light Refreshments - 9:30 a.m. - Gathering 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If you would like to attend, please contact Pam Claterbaugh (540-588-8290) or Judy Moore (540-366-2470).

We will be taking the Hunger Buster bags to the PCC on April 22nd. If you would like to participate, you can pick up a bag from the narthex, fill it and return it to the church by April 21st.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Nest Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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

Alice Baker	Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey
Frances Bowling	Ellen Brumfield	Pam Claterbaugh
Betty Gehlert	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

