

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

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent



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

Numbers 21: 4-9, Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22, 1 Ephesians 2: 1-10

(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 167 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

**Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: God loves us with a steadfast love.

Congregants Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

Minister: God loves us so much he gave us his Son.

Congregants: Let us believe and have eternal life!

Minister: God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

Congregants: Let us have faith to receive this grace!

Minister: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

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

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we rejoice that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. Why, then, do we complain as though the manna, raining down from heaven for us even now, is not enough? Why do we worry that your well of living water will someday run dry? It is surely our sin that causes us to live as though we do not trust your goodness. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again to put all our trust in your promises that never fail. Remind us that we are always in your loving care. Fill

us with grace, so that our lives might show forth the fullness of your love for all people...

(Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

***RESPONSE HYMN 576** *Lord, Have Mercy*

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Numbers 21: 4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Jesus Calls Us

K. Lee Scott

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 3: 14-21

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully, by the light of your truth in Jesus Christ. Amen

SERMON

Lean on God With Your Whole Weight

Pam Claterbaugh

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 209 *My Song Is Love Unknown*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS

*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 215 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought for the month: The Bible makes clear a basic truth that we self-centered humans find difficult to accept, namely, that the natural universe was not created primarily for us. There is no doubt that God wants us to enjoy it and even use its resources to optimize a good life for ourselves. But the ultimate purpose of creation is worship. Nature and all living things were created to glorify God. Ton Campolo

Earth Care: Green your neighborhood. Restore nature and increase property values by planting trees and other native plants to help reduce heat, improve mental health and community well-being, and provide better air quality and cleaner water.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Northminster- You are the Best! Thanks for your calls, food, cards, and especially your prayers. You have been so kind and loving to my family and me. The Baker and Esworthy Families

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, March 12th, at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

THE MINISTER WILL BE ON FAMILY LEAVE this week. We will hold him in our prayers as he cares for Kay following surgery. Elder Pam Claterbaugh, a Commissioned Pastor in the Presbytery, will preach and lead worship this morning.

Lenten devotional booklets are available. We have one per family. They can be picked up at the narthex table.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Nest Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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
Steve Brammer	Glenna Brammer
Lucy Collier	Annette Daughy
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