

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

March 3, 2024
Third 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

Exodus 20: 1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

(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 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.**

**There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.**

**There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: This is the third step on our Lenten Journey.

Congregation: It is on this journey that we will face our greed and selfishness

Minister: It is on this journey that God will confront us.

Congregation: Our hearts are ready to receive God.

Minister: Come, then, and let us move forward toward the Cross.

All: Let us faithfully and confidently follow Jesus. AMEN.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Patient Lord, we have cluttered the “temples” of our lives with so many unnecessary things that they have blocked out your healing words of hope and mercy. We have been keenly aware of our economic situation and have spent much time and energy worrying about these things. Forgive us when we have been so preoccupied with these things that we have not listened to your words and followed your ways. Clear away our fears and frustrations. Give us clean hearts and spirits. Help us to be confident in

your mercy and transformational love. These things we offer in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Hear these our silent prayers. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rejoice! You are forgiven. Let the clutter of your life fall away and be replaced by the love of God in Christ Jesus. AMEN.

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

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Exodus 20: 1-17

¹Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹For six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that

the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

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

There is a Land of Pleasure

American Folk-hymn, arr. William Dunsmore

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 2: 12-22

¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there for a few days. ¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰ The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Lord, we come to you on this day with so many things laying claim to our lives, our hearts, and our spirits. Open our ears and our hearts to hear your words of healing love. Prepare us to be faithful disciples for you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SERMON

Zeal for the House of God

Pam Claterbaugh

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 166 *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

* 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 310 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

*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

Circle 2 will meet on Monday, March 4th, at 6:00 p.m. at Shakers Restaurant.

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

THE MINISTER WILL BE ON FAMILY LEAVE the next 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 the next Sundays.

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
Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 at Shakers Restaurant
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 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