

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

May 5, 2024
Sixth 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 47; I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

(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, from Psalm 47, Ephesians 1, and Luke 24)

Minister: Clap your hands, all you peoples!

Congregants: God has gone up with a shout of joy!

Minister: The Lord Jesus Christ has risen to reign.

Congregants: His is the name above all names.

Minister: We are witnesses: the Lord is risen!

Congregants: Christ has ascended to reign on high.

Minister: Come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 246 *Christ Is Alive!*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, Almighty Father, eternal Refuge,

Your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,

has ascended far above the heavens

to reign over all Your creation.

**Be with us now in our worship and praise,
as we hear Your Word and seek his grace.
Even though Christ has been crowned Lord of all,
we confess that we have not bowed before him,
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
Forgive us, we pray, and raise us from sin,
so that we may be Your faithful people,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who rules the world and is head of the Church.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In I Peter we read:

"The God of all grace and goodness and glory,
Who calls us to eternal life in Jesus Christ,
will restore, support, and strengthen us."

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE HYMN 277 *Hail Thee, Festival Day!

(Ascension Verse 1)

Congregation will sing the Refrain, Choir will sing the Verse

**Refrain: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;
day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

Choir: He who was nailed to the cross, is ruler and Lord of all people.
All things created on earth sing to the glory of God:

**Refrain: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;
day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 93

¹ The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved;

² your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. ³ The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. ⁴ More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! ⁵ Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, for evermore.

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

Polish Easter Carol

Traditional

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Acts: 1:1-11

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with* the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**God most high, reigning in glory,
send down Your Spirit of wisdom**

**to shine in Your heavenly Word,
so that we may worship You with joy,
continually blessing Your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERMON

ARE WE THERE YET?

Dr. Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 260 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Generous God, we bring You our offerings this day,
and we ask that You bless each one.**

Bless our gifts that they might be used in ways to honor You.

**Bless the tasks and work that we undertake this week
that we might be coworkers in Your coming Kingdom.**

Bless the hours of this week that our lives may be our offering to You.

May we be Your blessings to the world, through Jesus Christ. 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 295 *Go to the 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

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, May 7th, at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday--May 19--during our morning worship service.

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

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

