

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

***January 12, 2025***  
***First Sunday after Epiphany***



***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

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 744 *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;**

**Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

#### THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Thus says the Lord Almighty: "Sing aloud with gladness,  
and raise shouts among the nations.

**Congregants: "Proclaim, give praise, and call upon the Lord."**

Minister: Thus says the Lord, "He Who created you,  
He Who formed you from the dust.

**Congregants: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you,  
I have called you by name, and you are Mine!"**

Minister: Blessed be the Lord! Let us come before Him in worship!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 403 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

#### \*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**You created the earth and all that is in it,  
and declared it good, O Lord.**

**You have filled our lives with Your goodness,  
and we give You our praise and thanksgiving.**

**Before we were born, or our parents were here,**

**You have claimed us as Yours, and call us beloved.**

**Your gifts are beyond counting, Your grace beyond imagining.**

**Yet too often we seek to follow other paths,**

**too often we turn our backs on You and Your goodness,**

**too often our hearts and spirits turn to sinful ways.**

**In Your great mercy, forgive us, we pray.**

**Through Your Holy Spirit, turn us again towards new life in Christ,  
and lead us into Your glorious Kingdom.  
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Our God is loving, just, and merciful.  
He delivers us from sin and restores us by grace.  
Hear these words, and take them into your heart:  
in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Praise be to God!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 450 *Be Thou My Vision***

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 13**

<sup>1</sup> How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever? How long will you hide your face from me? <sup>2</sup> How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? <sup>3</sup> Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, <sup>4</sup> and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed'; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. <sup>5</sup> But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. <sup>6</sup> I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me

**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.**

## ANTHEM

### *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and port be as long as life endures.

## MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 13:1-9

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup>He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

### THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Help us, Holy God, to connect to Your Word anew.  
Open the Scriptures to us in a way that is life-giving.  
Have Your Spirit help us to hear what You say  
for living our lives in these challenging days.  
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

## SERMON

### *DOES GOD CARE?*

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 442 *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**We thank You for all of the spiritual and material gifts  
that You have given to us, O Lord.**

**We dedicate these gifts to You in gratitude  
and in hope for the day where all will know Your love.  
In Jesus' name. 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 463 *How Firm a Foundation*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am at the Church.

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfasts will meet Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. at Pete's Deli. It's a great way to start your day, come join us!

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION has been called for next Sunday, January 19, at the end of the morning worship service, for the purpose of electing persons to the congregation's Nominating Committee, and receiving the Northminster operating budget for 2025.

THE INSTALLATION OF ELDERS for 2025 will be held on Sunday, January 26, during the morning worship service. We will also be ordaining Karen Gwitt as an elder at that time. Please be in prayer for all those serving as elders.

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING OF 2025 following the worship service on January 26. If you have any matters for the elders, or if you would like to join Northminster, please let the Minister know.

We collected 118 items from the Mitten Tree this year. Thank you to everyone that contributed.

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast at Pete's Deli
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
		Congregation Meeting

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**

Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling	Ellen Brumfield
Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines	Walt Haines
Jake Hayes	Hayes Family	Mary Ann Huff
Jyke Jones	Dennis Kincer	Skylar Kirby
Patsy Linton	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Justin Plymale	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Vicki Whitworth	

**Friends and Family**

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Issac Franklin	Gladys Hughston
Vicki Widener	Dan Cone
Glenna Myers	

**\*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





