

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

***January 26, 2025***  
***Third 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

Nehemiah 8:1-10; Psalm 19; and Luke 4:14-21

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

### ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

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: Jesus comes to proclaim good news to us all!

**Congregants: Jesus heals the hurting, strengthens the weak,  
releases those in bondage, and shares the love of God.**

Minister: We gather here and now to meet our Lord,  
to know his path, to follow his way.

**Congregants: May that happen in our time of worship.**

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 156 *Sing of God Made Manifest*

\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Heavenly Father, from before the beginning of time,  
and after the time of this world comes to its end,**

**You alone are the one true God, and we praise You.**

**Throughout the history of the human race**

**You have heard our concerns and guided our steps.**

**Hear us again this day, as we bring You our prayers.**

**We know that we are far from who You call us to be.**

**We are mired in self-centeredness, focused on our own needs.**

**We sin in our day-to-day lives in a multitude of ways,**

**by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

**Turn our hearts towards You, away from our selfishness,  
and make us concerned for the welfare and happiness of others.  
Forgive us for our many mistakes, and make us anew, we pray.  
Hear these our silent and private prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear the good news! God's promise to forgive us  
is sure and everlasting. Know that you are forgiven,  
and be at peace. Praise be to God!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 582**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

(The choir will introduce the hymn)

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, Whose grace has  
pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the  
beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

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

*Walk in the Light*

arr. Andre Thomas

Refrain: We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.

Lord our Lord Thy glorious Name. Jesus, the Light of the world; All Thy wondrous works proclaim Jesus, the Light of the world. (Refrain)

In the heavens with radiant signs Jesus, the Light of the world; Evermore Thy glory shines Jesus, the Light of the world. (Refrain)

#### MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Genesis 8:6-12

<sup>6</sup>At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made <sup>7</sup>and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; <sup>9</sup>but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. <sup>10</sup>He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; <sup>11</sup>and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. <sup>12</sup>Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Loving God, may Your Spirit be with each of us,  
opening our hearts and showing us Your Word and Your Way.  
In the name of the Living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

*LIKE A DOVE*

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 279

*Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Gracious God, Your love for us is faithful and everlasting.  
All that we have, all that we are is a gift of Your Holy Spirit.  
We bring our gifts now to You, for Your work in this world.**

**May they be used to share Your love and care.  
Through Christ we pray. 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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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS will take place in our morning worship service today. Please be in prayer for all our elders, that God's Spirit will be with them, and will guide them, in the work before them.

THE SESSION HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING following the morning worship service. If you have any matters for the elders to consider, or if you are interested in joining the church, please contact the Minister.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in the morning worship service next Sunday. Please be in prayerful preparation as we come to the Lord's Table.

Please mark your calendars and join us on February 2<sup>nd</sup> after church for our annual Soup for Seniors. Soup made by members along with sandwiches and dessert will be provided. If you would like to provide soup, please let Lynn Kirby or someone on the Discipleship Ministry know. Donations of soup, crackers, peanut butter, canned meat or fruit, or oatmeal would be welcome. These items along with any monetary donations go to the League of Older Americans. The goal is to collect 55,000 pounds of soup and other non-perishable items to provide bags of food for 3,000 older adults in need right here in our community.

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion
	12:00 pm	Soup for Seniors

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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**

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	Vicki Widener
Glenna Myers	Dan Cone

**\*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





