

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

January 5, 2025
Second Sunday of Christmas



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

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: I will proclaim the gracious deeds of our God!

Congregants: The steadfast love of the Lord is great.

Minister: Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord.

**Congregants: We have experienced His glory,
and His light to all the world.**

Minister: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts this day.

Congregants: May the love of Christ dwell richly in us.

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 687 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Creating God, Redeeming God, Ever-Present God,
You have wonderfully made, and more wonderfully saved,
each of us through Your grace and mercy,
and we gather this day, on the brink of a new year,
to give You our praise and our thanksgiving.
We seek in our lives to share the divine love of Jesus Christ,
who came into our world to die for us and take on himself our sins,
washing us clean in his blood and giving us new life.
As You have led us, protected us, provided for us in the past,
so guide us now and always, so that new resolutions will last.**

**We know well that our best still falls short,
and that we cannot escape our brokenness and sinfulness
by our own efforts and our own words and deeds.
Come to us, hear our confession, and forgive us, we pray.
Lift us above the messes we make of our lives and our world,
set us again on Your path, and make us anew,
that we can follow our Lord Jesus Christ, and live in his love.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In Psalm 103 we read: "The steadfast love of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting." His love is with us always.
Therefore, know that your repentance before God is accepted,
you are forgiven, your sins washed away, and you are made anew.
Be filled with hope and with joy, and be at peace.
Praise be to God!

RESPONSE HYMN 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

**Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD I Corinthians 11:23-27

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Joshua 24:14-15

¹⁴ 'Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of truth and goodness, open our hearts, minds, and spirit at this time so that we may be ready to receive the message You intend for us this day. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

SERMON

THE TABLE OF RENEWAL

Russ Merritt

RENEWAL OF COVENANT VOWS

*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.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 697 *Take My Life and Let It Be*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 686 *God of Our Life*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mitten Tree is up in the narthex and ready to be decorated with hats, gloves, pjs, underwear and any other small piece of clothing a needy family would need.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	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

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

