

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

March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in 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

Genesis 15:1-12; Psalm 27; Luke 9:28-36

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days (Verse 1)

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 25)

Minister: O God, in You alone we trust.

Congregants: Lead us in Your truth, and teach us Your ways.

Minister: You are the God of our salvation, the Guide for our living.

**Congregants: For Your Word we wait, for You we listen,
for Your Will we obey.**

Minister: So come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 223 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Our heavenly Father, in You we find hope and joy.
We give You thanks for all the ways You come near,
all the ways You make Yourself known to us.**

**We praise You that You have come from heaven to earth
in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
and that in him we see the signs of Your "Kingdom come".
We know well that Your love in him is Your call for us,
and yet too often we choose our own path.**

**We confess that we make idols of money, power, and popularity.
We neglect Your Word and fail to follow where Jesus leads.
Empty us of our pretensions this Lenten season, we pray,
and guide us in faith so that we can live in right relationship,**

**with You, with others, and in Your world.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from John 8)
Give heed to these words of good news, from Jesus:
"If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
Receive God's own truth. Receive God's grace.
Receive God's forgiveness. And accept the new life
that God provides. Praise be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 576 *Lord, Have Mercy*

BELL VOLUNTARY *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* Kevin McChesney

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 42: 1-3, 5, 7-11

¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? ³ My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help

⁷ Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me. ⁸ By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. ⁹ I say to God, my rock, 'Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?' ¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, 'Where is your God?' ¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER / THE LORDS'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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

John Carter

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
did ever such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 9:14-29

¹⁴ When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. ¹⁶He asked them, 'What are you arguing about with them?' ¹⁷Someone from the crowd answered him, 'Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; ¹⁸and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.' ¹⁹He answered them, 'You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.' ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹Jesus asked the father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. ²²It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.' ²³Jesus said to him, 'If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.' ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You spirit that keep this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!' ²⁶After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. ²⁸When he had entered the house, his disciples

asked him privately, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’ ²⁹He said to them, ‘This kind can come out only through prayer.’

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)
**God of grace and truth, wisdom and revelation,
give us hearts hungry for You, help us to seek You,
inspire us to hear and know Your truth.
Help our minds and spirits focus on You and Your Word,
that we might be strengthened to follow and to serve.
Through the Living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

HELP MY UNBELIEF

Dr. Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 817 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)
**God of grace, You provide for us in amazing ways.
Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude,
and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission
to those needing to know his loving presence.
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 626 *As the Deer* (sung twice)

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Card Shower for Frances Bowling's 100th birthday for/by March 18th. Please mail cards to Frances Bowling, Goodwill Retirement Community, Room 4113, 891 Dorsey Hotel RD. Grantsville MD 21536

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING next Sunday following the morning worship service. If you have any matters for the Session, or if you are interested in joining Northminster, please contact the Minister.

Lenten devotional booklets can be picked up in the narthex.

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet Thursday, March 20th, at 8:30 a.m. at Pete's Deli. It's a great way to start your day, come join us!

Lenten devotional booklets can be picked up in the narthex.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast at Pete's
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting

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

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		

Friends and Family

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

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Karen Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dave Snider, Ron Staton, Greg Theimer

