

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

March 30, 2025
Fourth 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

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 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 32)

Minister: In times of trouble, in days of fear,

**Congregants: God's steadfast love surrounds
those who trust in the Lord.**

Minister: When we are lost and lonely,
not sure of our place,

**Congregants: God's steadfast love surrounds
those who trust in the Lord.**

Minister: When we are hard-hearted and cynical,

**Congregants: God's steadfast love surrounds
those who trust in the Lord.**

Minister: When we struggle to accept
God's promise of redemption,

**Congregants: God's steadfast love surrounds
those who trust in the Lord.**

Minister: Let us together look to God to teach us
His ways and His path. Let us worship our Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 624 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Loving God, we give You thanks for Your words of hope.
You promise us that anyone who is in Christ is made new.**

**In these days of chaos and fear, we cling to the possibilities
of life with You, now and throughout eternity.
Yet we confess that we have erred, and strayed from Your path.
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.
We have left undone those things which we should have done,
and we have done those things which we should not do.
O Lord, have mercy on us, and forgive us we pray.
Restore us, and grant that we may live a holy and just life,
to the glory or Your blessed name.
Hear these our personal and private prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In Psalm 32 we read: "Happy are those
whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we are those happy people whose sins have been forgiven.
Believe in the good news of the gospel, and rejoice!

***RESPONSE HYMN 576** *Lord, Have Mercy*

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Ezekiel 36:24-28

²⁴I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the

heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

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 *Dust, Remember You Are Splendor* Anne Krentz Organ

Splendor, splendor. Dust, remember you are splendor.

Dust, remember you are splendor: in God's image you were made;
God's own breath breathes in your breathing; God's own hands shaped you of clay;
noble, precious, and beloved, godliness in dust arrayed.
Splendor, splendor, Dust, remember you are splendor.

Dust, remember you are splendor: set aside the works of night;
put away the deeds of darkness; set your face toward God's own light,
nevermore to yoke and trample, nevermore to press and slight.
Splendor, splendor, Dust, remember you are splendor.

Dust, remember you are splendor; strive to walk the narrow way;
follow Christ into the desert; there the Spirit's call obey.
Now, the time returning; now your resurrection days.
Splendor, splendor, Dust, remember you are splendor.

Dust, remember you are splendor; like a watered garden grow;
Light shall warm you like the dawning; rivers through your glades shall flow;
Fruitful precious, and beloved, you shall God's own splendor show.
Dust, you are splendor. You shall God's own splendor show.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 3:1-16

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, Your mercy is wide, but our understanding is limited. As we hear Your Word proclaimed today, open our minds and our hearts, so that Your good news may reach the deepest places within us. Renew us in Your forgiving love, and enliven our imaginations to possibilities for sharing that love with others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SERMON

BORN ANEW

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

Lord of all, we give You thanks for Your unfailing love. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from You, and we return it now to You with thanks and praise.

**Take and bless what we offer here today,
that it may be used to bring Your love to this world.
In Christ's name 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 683** *Lord of All Hopefulness*

***CHARGE**

***THE BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

***Indicates the People Standing**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

I had a great 100th birthday and Northminster folks helped to make it so! From singing happy birthday to all the MANY cards, gifts, and good wishes, I thank you so much. I love all of you, Fran Bowling

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, April 8th, at 10:00 am at the Church.

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet Thursday, April 17th, 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

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.

Frances Bowling	Pam Claterbaugh	Richard Claterbaugh
Marie Haines	Walt Haines	Jake Hayes
Dennis Kincer	Skylar Kirby	Patsy Linton
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith		

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
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

