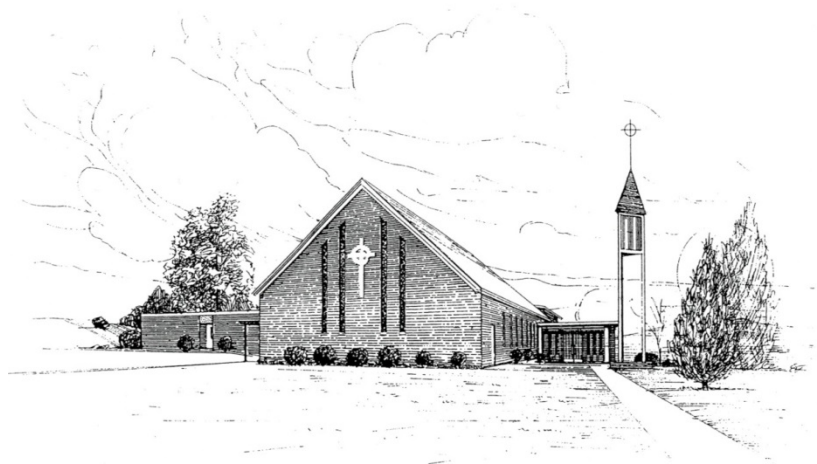


NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday



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!

PRELUDE

GATHER JOYFULLY

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 65:17-25; Acts 10:34-43; Luke 24:1-12

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

THE REFITTING OF THE SANCTUARY

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG *This is the Day* (unison)

**This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made!
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made!
We will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made!**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Congregants: Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Minister: This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: He comes now to us, that we might believe
and share his love and gospel to the world.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord of life!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)**

**Glory to You, O God of grace and glory.
You have won victory over death
by the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,
raising him from the grave and giving us eternal life.
In his death on the cross we find redemption,
and through Your Holy Spirit
You guide, protect, and strengthen us each day.
Grant us the resolve to die daily to our sinfulness,
so that we might live with him
in the hope, joy, and assurance of his resurrection.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear good news! Christ himself bore our sins
in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin,
we can live for righteousness.
Through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! Praise be to God!

***RESPONSE HYMN 238 *Thine Is the Glory* (Verse 1)**

**Thine is the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹ It will be said

on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

An Easter Carol

Ephrem Feeley

Now is Christ risen from the dead, now are the powers of darkness fled,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Gone is the night of sin and gloom, Jesus is risen from the tomb.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Now is Christ risen from the dead, empty there lies his narrow bed,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ and his cross have won the day, come, see the grave in which he lay.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Now is Christ risen from the dead, he who his blood for sinners shed,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
In him who died to bear our sins our resurrection life begins.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Now is Christ risen from the dead, risen and reigning as he said,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him who light and life restored, praise him, our everliving Lord!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 16:1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of Your risen Word.**

Enliven our hearts with Your Holy Spirit.

Startle us with Your truth.

**Open our hearts and minds to the good news
that Jesus Christ is risen indeed.**

**Open our spirits and our intellects to the news
that he is Lord of life, even over death,
and that love shall never lose, throughout eternity,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE SERMON

EASTER LIFE

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 277 *Hail Thee, Festival Day!*
(Easter Verses 1 and 2)

Choir will sing the Verses, Congregation will sing the Refrain

Congregational Refrain:

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord
was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

Choir Verse 1:

All the fair beauty of earth from the death of the winter arising!
Every good gift of the year now with its Master returns:

Congregational Refrain:

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord
was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

Choir Verse 2:

Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation.
Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all:

Congregational Refrain:

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord
was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

*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.

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

Hymn 522 *I Am the Bread of Life*

Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 236 *The Strife Is O'er*

CHARGE Christ is risen, so fear nothing!

Go forth in the name of Jesus,
our risen and ever-present Lord,
living always his commandment
to love one another as he has loved us.

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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
Mary Anne Huff	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	Ann Arrington
George Smith	

*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

