

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

April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter



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

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 118:14-29; Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN *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, from Psalm 25)

Minister: Our God, in You and You alone we trust.

Congregants: Lead us this day in Your truth and wisdom.

Minister: You are the God of our salvation,
the God of our assurance.

**Congregants: We give ourselves to You,
we follow where You lead.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 234 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of new life, God of empty graves, God of eternal promise,
come again to Your people in this Easter season, we pray.
We come before You now seeking Your presence and Your blessing.
We need Your strength as we seek to follow Your way.
We need Your grace as we strive to live as resurrection people.
We know too well that we are sinners, broken and in need of You.**

**Too often, our God, we find ourselves in fear and indecision,
locked up in inaction and apathy. unable to follow where You lead.
We have not recognized You or heard Your voice,
we have ignored both the wounds of the Cross and the open tomb,
choosing to live our lives apart from Your sacrifice and victory.
Forgive us, we deeply pray, and have mercy on us.
Help us to breathe deeply of Your Holy Spirit.
Call us forth from our places of pain and brokenness,
and give us Easter hearts to walk with You.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia!
In his resurrection is our victory, our hope, our forgiveness.
The promise of God is this: in Christ we are God's beloved children,
and in that grace we are forgiven and made new.
Praise be to God!

***RESPONSE HYMN 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (Verse 2)**

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD John 20:19-29

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with

them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

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.

HYMN 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD

I Corinthians 15:50 - 16:3

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' ⁵⁵ 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

16 ¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. ² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. ³ And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)
**Holy God, we come now before You for a word of life.
Grant us now Your wisdom, Your hope, Your peace,
and that which will guide us through our days to come.
Through Christ the Living Word we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

THEREFORE

Dr. Merritt

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

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)
**God of generosity and abundance, we thank You for Your gifts
to us, this day and all days. Take these gifts, we pray,
and use them to knit us closer to each other
and closer to Your call for us to follow where You lead.
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 238 *Thine Is the Glory*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Billy and Maggie request the pleasure of your company to celebrate their wedding Saturday May 10, 2025, at 2:00 pm at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Reception to follow in fellowship hall.

Earth Day was Tuesday, April 22nd but let's make Earth Day every day our goal.

God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Genesis 1:28

"When we see the world as a gift from God, we will do our best to take care of it and use it wisely, instead of poisoning or destroying it" Billy Graham

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Ministry Meeting
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
Mary Anne Huff	Dennis Kincer	Skylar Kirby
Patsy Linton	Susan Lockard	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

