

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

March 2, 2025
Transfiguration of the Lord



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

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; II Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 744 *Arise, Your Light Has Come*

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 98)

Minister: Sing to the Lord a new song,

for He has performed marvels on our behalf.

**Congregants: His right hand, His holy arm,
gives Him the power to save.**

Minister: Let the sea thunder and all that it holds,
and the world, with all who live in it.

**Congregants: Let all the rivers clap their hands,
and the mountains shout for joy!**

Minister: For our Lord reigns, and His rule is goodness!

Come let us worship our God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 193 *Jesus Take Us to the Mountain*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

God Almighty, Jesus our Savior, Holy Spirit,

Your wisdom, love, and beauty are beyond our understanding.

Yet by Your grace, glimpses of Your divine abundance surround us.

We praise You for each day, and each moment, in Your presence.

In You alone we find our salvation, and goodness in life.

Yet time and again we confess we have fallen short.

We are far from being the people You have called us to be.

We ignore Your gifts and provisions, or use them only for ourselves.

We need to be reminded constantly of our spiritual needs,

**and Your call to us to share Your love with others.
Merciful God, forgive our selfishness and sinfulness,
and help to make us anew in Your image.
Hear these our personal and private prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God's own Word tells us that from the fullness of Christ,
we have all received grace upon grace--grace beyond our imagining.
Hear this good news with great hope, and joy, and peace:
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and in him, all things are made new.
Praise be to God!

***RESPONSE HYMN 582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, Whose grace has
pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 8

¹ O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your
glory above the heavens. ² Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded
a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. ³ When I look
at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have
established; ⁴ what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you
care for them? ⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them
with glory and honour. ⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet, ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the
field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of
the seas. ⁹ O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Jesus, take us to the mountain, where, with Peter, James, and John,
we are dazzled by your glory, light as blinding as the sun.
There prepare us for the night by the vision of that sight.

What do You want us to see there, that your close companions saw?
Your divinity revealed there fills us with the selfsame awe.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go, matched to meet our deadliest foe.

What do you want us to hear there, that your dear disciples heard?
Once again the voice from heaven says of the Incarnate Word,
“Listen, listen, everyone: this is my beloved Son!”

Take us to that other mountain where we see you glorified,
where you shouted “It is finished!” where for all the world you died.
Hear the stunned centurion: “Truly this was God’s own Son!”

We who have beheld your glory, risen and ascended Lord,
Cannot help but tell the story, all that we have seen and heard:
Say with Peter, James, and John: “You are God’s beloved Son!”

THE SECOND READING OF GOD’S WORD Luke 9:28-36

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’ ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy God, we all need the guidance of Your Word and Your truth.
Help us to be open to You in this time of proclamation.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Dr. Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 192

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

*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

Communion Hymn 177 *I Will Come to You*

Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 853

We Are Marching in the Light of God (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

Lenten devotional booklets can be picked up in the narthex.

In January, the Discipleship ministry sent monetary donations to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, hurricane relief that went to Montreat in North Carolina, the Presbyterian Center, RAM, the Rescue Mission, and CEDEPCA, which helps with the impoverished in Guatemala.

Jane Livesay is in need of pillow cases for the Little Dresses for Africa project. We want to thank her for making 411 dresses and thank you for providing the pillow cases and materials to make them. Little Dresses for Africa is a Christian organization that sends dresses to girls in Africa but also sends hope.

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	Vicki Widener
Glenna Myers	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

