

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

***March 23, 2025***  
***Third 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

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9

(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 63)

Minister: O God, You alone are my God,  
and I seek You, my soul thirsts for You.

**Congregants: I thirst for You, as in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.**

Minister: So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary,  
beholding Your power and glory.

**Congregants: Because Your steadfast love is better than life,  
I will praise You always.**

Minister: I will bless You as long as I live.

**Congregants: I will lift up my hands and call on Your name.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 386 *Come, Worship God*

### \*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**We give You thanks, our Lord, for this new day of possibilities.**

**You give us gifts to serve, and opportunities to follow.**

**You guide us into places of promise, to know and share Your love.**

**You surround us with Your peace, Your joy, Your hope,  
and You bring light and healing to our darkness and pain.**

**And yet we confess that we are reluctant to obey,  
we are fearful of what we might lose, we are selfish with Your gifts.**

**We hold You at arm's length, and struggle to make changes in our lives.  
Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our doubts. Forgive our fears.  
Forgive our self-centeredness. Forgive our straying from Your path.  
Turn us again in Your grace, and lead us in the ways of salvation.  
Make of us true disciples of Jesus Christ.  
Hear these our private prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God does not forsake us in times of trial and tribulation.  
Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love.  
Know this: in the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Praise be to God!

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

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD** Psalm 95

<sup>1</sup> O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
<sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him  
with songs of praise! <sup>3</sup> For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. <sup>4</sup>  
In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. <sup>5</sup> The  
sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. <sup>6</sup> O come,  
let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! <sup>7</sup> For he is our  
God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you  
would listen to his voice! <sup>8</sup> Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at  
Massah in the wilderness,  
<sup>9</sup> when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my  
work. <sup>10</sup> For forty years I loathed that generation and said, 'They are a people whose  
hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.' <sup>11</sup> Therefore in my anger I swore,  
'They shall not enter my rest.'

**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      *Touch That Soothes and Heals*    DeMey, arr. Keesecker

Touch that soothes and heals the hurting, hands that break a loaf of bread; steps that walk beside the weary, bearing burdens in their stead:  
Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit ones in need of care,  
give the homeless warmth and shelter: Christ will find a welcome there.

“See my hands and feet,” said Jesus, love arisen from the grave,  
“Be my hands and feet,” said Jesus, “live as ones I died to save.”  
Love and serve without distinction all earth’s people, first and least.  
Know within each act of kindness hope and wholeness are increased.

“See my hands and feet,” said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.  
“Be my hands and feet,” said Jesus, “live as ones I died to save.”  
Hands that beckon little children bind a wound, prepare a meal,  
Feet that rush to share good tidings, Christ arisen, still reveal.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD’S WORD    John 4:5-42

<sup>5</sup>So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?’ <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’ <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”’; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place

where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’ <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him. <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”?’ But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’ <sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Merciful God, open us to Your Word and Your Way.**

**Help us to seek You, Your truth, and Your message for us today.**

**We pray through the Living Word, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERMON

*A CHURCH WITH AN OPEN DOOR*

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 182 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Gracious God, You give to us out of Your abundance.  
For the material gifts and the spiritual gifts You give us,  
we thank You, and we dedicate these gifts  
of time, talent, and treasure to You and Your Kingdom,  
and we ask that You continue to lead us in serving You.  
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 65** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

**\*CHARGE**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**THE POSTLUDE**

**YOUR SERVICE**

**\*Indicates the People Standing**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING today 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.

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service

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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





