

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

May 11, 2025
Fourth 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!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 114; Isaiah 53:1-6; John 10:22-30

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GRADUATE INTERVIEW

Mason Esworthy

GATHERING HYMN 238 *Thine Is the Glory*

**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.**

Refrain:

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 33)

Minister: Sing a new song to the Lord

Let us do good work, and shout for joy!

Congregants: For everything God does is good.

God's kind love fills the world.

Minister: God's Word made the heavens,
and His breath made the stars.

**Congregants: God gathers the sea up in heaps,
and He stores the deep in jars.**

Minister: Let everyone who lives on the earth
stand in awe of our God!

Congregants: God spoke, and the world was there.

He made His command, and it was created.

Minister: So come, let us worship our God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 645 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

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

**Wellspring of life, on this Mother's Day we give thanks
for the way You nurture and care for each of us as beloved children.
We praise You for Your comfort and guidance,
for the many ways You wrap Your divine arms around us
and pull us close, protecting us, encouraging us, challenging us.
Savior God, we have invited You into our lives in this Easter season,
only to forget Your grace and to neglect Your presence once again.
You call us, yet we have other priorities and desires.
You seek to transform us, yet we do not want to change.
Remind us, our God, the You alone are the source of our flourishing,
You alone are the living water by which we have been planted,
You alone are the Parent who comforts and challenges and loves.
Forgive our unfaithfulness, and turn our focus to You,
Your Word of truth, and all that Your Holy Spirit provides.
Through our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, renew us, we pray.
Hear these our deepest personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Christ forgives, Christ transforms, Christ renews.
Christ leads us on the path of righteousness, to new beginnings.
In him, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory
and to proclaim His good news, that in Jesus Christ
we become the beloved children of God.
May His name forever be praised!

***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 Acts 17:22-31

²² So Paul, standing in the middle of the Are-op'agus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along, and observed the

objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.'²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead."

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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Marie Pooler

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 14:15-21

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Open us, Holy One, to Your Word and Your Way.

Clear our minds of distractions, make our spirits eager to hear,

and fill our hearts with the humility we need to receive Your message.

Through Christ, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.

SERMON

NO LONGER ORPHANS

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Verses 1, 3, 4)

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

O God, Creator and Provider, You have blessed us with many gifts.

Use us, and what we have gathered from Your hand,

to bring Your love to this world, through Your gift of love,

the risen Lord, Jesus Christ. 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 239 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE CELEBRATE THE MOTHERS OF OUR CONGREGATION,
and all those who have provided care and nurture to others throughout the
years. We thank you for your love, and we thank God for giving you to
us! Happy Mothers Day!

CONGRATULATIONS TO BILLY AND MAGGIE CRAIGHEAD,
who were married yesterday afternoon in the sanctuary. We all share in wishing
them God's richest blessings!

Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards and food that I received during my recent
knee replacement. I am starting the rehab process now. Chuck and I are blessed to
be part of the Northminster family! Susan Lockard

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, May 13th, at 10:00 am at the Church.

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfast will meet Thursday, May 15th, at 8:30 a.m. New
location is: IHOP at 4764 Valley View Blvd, Roanoke

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast
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

