

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

*April 26, 2026*  
*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

Ezekiel 34:7-15; I Peter 2:19-25

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Easter Hymn

**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!**

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, adapted from #93)

Minister: Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

**Congregants: Behold! The Savior of the world is risen!**

Minister: Fling wide the portals of your hearts.

**Congregants: Let us feel the presence of God's grace and love!**

Minister: O Holy Spirit, lead us on in worship.

**Congregants: Call us each by name, that we may give God glory!**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 410

*God Is Calling through the Whisper*

W Zlobie Lezy

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious and loving God, through Your Son  
and our Savior Jesus Christ You have removed  
every barrier between our deep needs  
and Your abundant providence. Make us more aware  
of Your steadfast love and abiding presence, we pray.  
From before the foundation of this world.  
You called us by name and pledged Your guidance.  
Yet we have strayed from Your fold, taking our own path.  
You seek to lead us, but we choose to lead ourselves.**

**Forgive us, O God, and call us back home, to You.  
Open for us again the gate to Christ's redeeming mercy,  
and may we find restoration for our souls and glory in You.  
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear Good News: While we were sinners,  
Christ came to us, Christ died for us, Christ rose from the dead  
so that the path to heaven may be open to us,  
and all of creation renewed. So believe God's truth:  
in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, and restored to new, abundant life!  
Alleluia! Amen!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* Easter Hymn**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD John 10:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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                      *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*                      William Bradley Roberts

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us for our use thy fold prepare. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD    Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

(unison, from "Meditations of the Heart")

**O God, give us a listening ear, an ear that will not shrink  
from a word that corrects, a word that challenges us  
to deeper consecration and higher resolve, a word  
that seizes upon everything decent in our nature  
and channels it into paths of healing for others.  
Give us, Lord, a listening ear, through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*BEING EASTER PEOPLE*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 802

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

St. Columba

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Our Savior, you lead us to what nourishes, comforts,  
and secures our living. Our cup indeed runs over.  
In gratitude and faith, we bring these our gifts before You.  
Bless them in the life and service of Your Church,  
that all may know the love and peace of our Lord,  
in whose precious name we pray. Amen.**

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison, The Apostle's Creed)

**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 187

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Bradbury

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH will meet following the worship service. Lunch will be served. IF YOU FEEL CALLED to share more deeply and fully in God's work at Northminster, you are encouraged to join a Ministry: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, or Stewardship. Let the Minister know if you are interested, or if you have questions.

You are invited to the PCC Open House on May 29th. It will begin at 10:30 and end at 6:00 pm. with a ribbon cutting at 12:30. Because of safety concerns, they will need the names of people who are planning on attending. Please contact Lynn Kirby and she will put you on the list. The PCC is incredibly thankful to the members of Northminster for the volunteer work and contributions made to this organization. If any of you worked in the old building, you will be pleasantly surprised at how nice the new building has turned out.

This is a reminder that the Session has a bulletin board located across from the Secretary's office. The minutes from the Stated Session Meetings and a copy of the monthly Financial Report are posted. Other information in reference to the Session, Elders, committees, etc. can be seen there. Please take time to check out the business of the church.

We dropped off 10 bags of food to the PCC. Thanks to all who donated!

The Presbyterian Women will be collecting items for Sunnyside March 22-May 2. Useful items for their residents are shampoo, lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes, mouth wash, combs, brushes, shaving cream, deodorant (for men and women), bath soap, tissues, puzzles, books: crossword, search, daily devotionals and anything that the residents can use.





