

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

*May 10, 2026*  
*Sixth 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

Ezekiel 34:1-7; Psalm 115; John 14:15-21

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG 248 *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Hymn of Joy

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!**  
**Christ is risen! Hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.**  
**In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.**  
**Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 63)

Minister: O God, You alone are my God. 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,  
my lips will praise You.**

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 the Lord.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 246

*Christ Is Alive!*

Truro

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, we give You our thanks for this new day:  
for our gathering in worship as Your people,  
for the fellowship we share, for voices to sing Your praise,  
for hearing Your Word and sharing Your gifts.  
Be with us now, and may our confessions be blessed and true.**

**Holy God, like the disciples who found themselves in fear,  
locked in inaction and indecision and uncertainty,  
we struggle to give ourselves fully to resurrection life.  
We have lost ourselves in anxiety, in our sinfulness,  
and so often feel trapped in our focus on our own interests.  
We have not listened for Your voice or followed Your lead,  
and too often our lives are not lived in your Spirit.  
God of new life, forgive us, restore us, transform us,  
use us in your service, and guide us on your path to salvation.  
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (based on Romans 10)  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will know His love,  
His forgiveness, His salvation, His presence.  
His arms are open wide to embrace us, His grace is abundant,,  
His mercy everlasting, our place at His Table eternal.  
With joy and celebration, hear this--you are forgiven!  
Let us share that love with the whole world!

\*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 Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup> restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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

*The Gift of Love*

Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, spirit come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole, let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD I John 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. <sup>19</sup> And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, <sup>22</sup> and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Our God, You are the Author and Source of our lives.  
You have given us Your Word of truth and wisdom,  
for the living of these our days. Open our hearts now  
for Your Holy Spirit to speak Your Will to us,  
and give us strength and purpose to follow,**

**in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*SPEAKING OF LOVE....*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
(Verses 1,2 and 4) Hyfrydol

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Lord of all, we give You thanks for Your unfailing love.  
All that we have and all that we are is a gift from You,  
and we return it now with thanks and praise.  
Receive and bless what we offer here today,  
that it will be used to share the good news  
of Your redeeming love in Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Presbyterian "Brief Statement of Faith")

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news, teaching by word and deed,  
healing the sick and binding up the broken-hearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we strive to love and to serve Christ in our daily tasks,  
and to live holy, joyful, and committed lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
always praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**GO FAITHFULLY**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 757

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Kingsfold

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, May 12, at 10:00 am at the church.

THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST will meet Thursday, May 21st, at 8:30 at Famous Anthony's next to the Brookside Golf Course on Williamson Road. All men of Northminster are invited to join us!

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS will hold its annual spring meeting next Thursday, the 21st, at the Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Our Session representative will be Sherry Moses, with Pam Claterbaugh serving as alternate.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our morning worship service on Sunday, May 24. Please be in prayerful preparation as we approach the Table of our Lord's grace.

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.

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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	Joyce Barker	Rob Barker
Di Brammer	Pam Claterbaugh	Karen Smith
Maggie Hambrick	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
Mary Anne Huff	Dennis Kincer	Joan Critzer
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Sandy Smith
Dora Slee	Kathy Pankavich	Debbie Newman

**Friends and Family**

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Dan Cone	Charlie Wilkerson
Glenna Myers	Tom Kirby
Connie Watkins	Jeff Midkiff
Owen Merritt	

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson  
Elders: Emily Allen, Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Karen Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Dave Snider, Ron Staton, Greg Theimer



