

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

*May 24, 2026*  
*Day of Pentecost*



**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

Numbers 1:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34; John 20:19-23

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG 288     *Spirit of the Living God*     Living God

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me; fill me; use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me**

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Acts 2:1-4)

Minister: They were all together in one place,  
in confusion and fear in the Upper Room.

**Congregants: They heard the rush of a violent wind.**

Minister: Divided tongues, like fire, appeared,  
and rested on each head.

**Congregants: Those gathered were filled  
with the Holy Spirit.**

Minister: They had clarity, and courage,  
and power to share faith and love.

**Congregants: Come, Holy Spirit,  
and fill each of us this day!**

Minister: Let us worship God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 289     *On Pentecost They Gathered*

Munich

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of light and life, of peace and power,  
Your Holy Spirit is alive and at work among us,  
within us, and through us in this world.**

**Your Spirit calls us to gather in Your presence  
through prayer, praise, and hearing Your Word.**

**We thank You for this fellowship and this worship,  
and ask Your forgiveness as we share our confessions.  
Holy Spirit, You call us to act boldly and in faithfulness,  
but we hesitate and doubt, and fear keeps us quiet.  
Our commitment to You is splintered by uncertainty,  
and we shrink from service and obedience to You.  
Our God, let Your Spirit fill us, embolden us, strengthen us,  
and give us visions of who we might be as Your people.  
Let Your Spirit prod us beyond inertia and apathy,  
and grant that we might be Christ's body,  
not in fits and starts but with steady conviction.  
Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to be active participants  
in Your Kingdom of peace and hope and joy.  
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

(from Acts 2:21)

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
shall be forgiven, saved, redeemed, made new.  
In Jesus Christ, we are transformed, and freed from sin.  
Praise be to God the Father, and God the Son,  
and God the Holy Spirit!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 277 *Hail Thee, Festival Day!* Salve Festa Dies  
(Pentecost Verse 1)**

*Congregation will sing the Refrain, Choir will sing the Verse*

**Refrain: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

Choir: Bright and in likeness of fire, on those who await his appearing,  
he whom the Lord had foretold suddenly, swiftly descends;

**Refrain: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever;  
day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

## GROW SPIRITUALLY

### THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Acts 2:1-13

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. <sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

*Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

K. Lee Scott

Gracious spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;  
help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;  
and, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;  
and, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;  
help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;  
and, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;  
and, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I should holy be;  
show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee;  
separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good,  
and whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.

## THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD

Acts 2:14-21, 37-41

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> what should we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

## THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Open our hearts and minds and spirits  
by the power of Your Spirit, Holy God,  
so that we might hear and receive  
the message You have for us this day.  
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*A LISTENING HEART*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 285

*Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

Bridegroom

\*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 291      *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

Spirit

Prayer of Dedication

**GO FAITHFULLY**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 66

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Pentecost

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special Garden Dedication will be included at the end of the service, the congregation will proceed into the Fellowship Hall and garden area for the dedication, followed by generous servings of strawberry shortcake for all! Good, hard work has gone into making the garden a special place for meditation, for prayer, for gatherings, and we thank all who have been part of this important project!

Presbyterian Women: Thank you very much for the PW Lifetime pen and the beautiful flowers presented to me on May 10. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are much appreciated; it was truly a special day for me. Elise Lanford

ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEK-END, we thank God for those soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to their country, to keep it free and make it possible for us all to live in faithfulness to our God.

THE SESSION WILL MEET next Sunday following the morning worship service. If you would like to become a member of Northminster, or if you have matters for the elders, please contact the Minister.

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.

### 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
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting

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
Elise Lanford		

**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	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



