

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

*May 3, 2026*  
*Fifth 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 119:9-32; John 14:1-14; I Peter 2:2-10

(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)

Minister: Come, weary one, for God is in this place.

**Congregants: Come, restless one, for God is in this place.**

Minister: Come, hopeful one, for God is in this place.

**Congregants: Come, curious one, for God is in this place.**

Minister: God is with me, and God is with you.

**Congregants: God is in this place, with us.**

Minister: So let us come together, and worship God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 667

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Laudes Domini

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy God, Your love is beyond our imagining,  
Your forgiving grace is more than sufficient.  
In Your mercy, no one is lost, no one abandoned,  
and all are welcome to receive Your salvation.  
Yet we are sinful at our core, and stray from Your embrace.  
You seek to share Your love through us,  
but we hedge and hesitate and haltingly follow.  
We are called to walk in Your light,**

**but we imprison ourselves in the world's darkness  
and fail to shine Your truth for all to see.  
Forgive our fear, our doubt, our excuses,  
and strengthen and guide us to give witness to Your glory.  
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear good news: Christ has transformed us.  
Christ has renewed us. Through Christ's death  
and resurrection, we are a new creation,  
ready to sing God's glory and testify to His grace.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Praise be to God!

**\*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 30**

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me. <sup>2</sup> O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. <sup>3</sup> O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. <sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. <sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. <sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." <sup>7</sup> By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. <sup>8</sup> To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: <sup>9</sup> "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?" <sup>10</sup> Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" <sup>11</sup> You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, <sup>12</sup> so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

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 Day of Resurrection*

arr. Brian Wentzel

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad, the passover of gladness, the passover of God. From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light, and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain, his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the glad refrain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin, the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein. Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend; for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father, all praise to Christ the Son, all praise to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One! Let all the ransomed number fall down before the throne, and honor, power, and glory ascribe to God alone!

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 1:40-45

<sup>40</sup>A man with a skin disease came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."<sup>41</sup> Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I am willing. Be made clean!"<sup>42</sup> Immediately the skin disease left him, and he was made clean.<sup>43</sup> After sternly warning him he sent him away at once,<sup>44</sup> saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded as a testimony to them."<sup>45</sup> But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly but stayed out in the country, and people came to him from every quarter.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**God of wisdom and truth,  
God of transformations and awakenings,  
open the eyes of our minds, that we might see.  
Open the ears of our spirits, that we might hear Your Word.  
Open the doors to our hearts, that we might know Your grace.  
Guide us to encounter Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.  
Amen.**

THE SERMON

*THE HEALING TOUCH*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 240

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

Alleluia No. 1

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Generous and gracious God,  
You meet our deepest needs  
and You transform us for Your service.  
Bless and sanctify these gifts  
for the work of Your Kingdom,  
and accept them as tokens of our thanksgiving.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship*)

**This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.  
Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,  
He was buried, and he was raised on the third day.  
He appeared first to the women, to Peter, to the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.  
We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end.  
He is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

## GO FAITHFULLY

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 248

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Hymn to Joy

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

## Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 at Shakers Restaurant
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.

### **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



