

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

April 28, 2024
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 22:25-31; Exodus 19:1-6; Acts 8:26-40

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

May the hope that is ours in Christ be with you.

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

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.**

Walk with gladness in the morning.

See what love can do and dare.

**Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.**

Jesus is our strong companion.

Joy and peace shall never end.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 149)

Minister: Let us sing to the Lord a new song,
let the congregation of the faithful praise Him!

**Congregants: Let the people of God rejoice in their Maker,
let His beloved children exult in their King.**

Minister: For the Lord is good to His people,
He cares for all who are in need.

**Congregants: Let us give Him all praise,
for He gives us life everlasting with Him.**

Minister: So come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 238 *Thine Is the Glory*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty and gracious God, when we come before You,
we remember and proclaim that You are merciful, holy, and loving.
We seek Your guidance, Your glory, Your goodness**

**as we come before You in praise and worship.
We live in a world that is sinful and broken,
and only You can bring the healing that we need.
We confess that we are not the people that You call us to be.
We know that we are not always merciful, holy, and loving.
We confess now before You our sins, and ask Your forgiveness.
Guide our wandering hearts, that they can find their rest in You.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear Good News! In Christ, we are new creations.
The old life is gone, thank God, and a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

RESPONSE HYMN 236 *The Strife Is O'er

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;

the victory of life is won;

the song of triumph has begun.

Alleluia!

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

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

Forth He Came At Easter

Old French Folk Tune

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD

I Corinthians 15:17-18, 20

¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, may Your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to Your words of love and grace and wisdom this day. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

SERMON

THE MEANING OF EASTER

Dr. Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 239 *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

Gracious God, please accept and bless these gifts and use them for the coming of Your Kingdom. In gratitude for all we have and for Your love for us, we pray with thanksgiving, through 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 245 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought of the month: The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man. Psalm 115:16

Earth care: This is the season of rebirth. Pay attention as buds appear on the trees, seedlings sprout, and animals are born. When you come across these signs of spring, say a blessing (aloud or silently) for God's new creation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, May 7th, at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH meet after worship, sharing in lunch and the work of the congregation. If you would like to join us, you are welcome! The Ministries include Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, and Stewardship.

PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS will hold its quarterly meeting this coming Saturday, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg. Elder Greg Theimer will represent the Northminster Session.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Ministries Meeting
Nest Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	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.

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Alice Baker	Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey
Frances Bowling	Ellen Brumfield	Pam Claterbaugh
Betty Gehlert	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer	Sheila Lancaster
Patsy Linton	Kay Merritt	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Vicki Whitworth	

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Annette Daughty
Terry Foss	Molly Guerrant
Gladys Hughston	Skylar Kirby
Vicki Widener	

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dora Slee, Dave Snider, Greg Theimer

