

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

*April 14, 2024*  
*Third 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

Isaiah 6:1-9a; Acts 3:12-19

(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! 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 4)

Minister: The Lord hears us when we call.

**Congregants: Come, let us put our trust in God.**

Minister: The Lord fills our hearts with gladness.

**Congregants: Come, let us sing God's praises  
with shouts of joy!**

Minister: The Lord grants peace to our weary souls.

**Congregants: Come, let us rest by the quiet waters  
of God's grace.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 233 *The Day of Resurrection!*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Risen Christ, Lord over life and death and life beyond,  
we gather this morning in the wake of your resurrection,  
in the joy, in the wonder, and in the celebration of your presence.**

**We remember that whenever and wherever we gather in your name,  
you offer us the comfort and assurance of your love.  
Yet we struggle to turn away from sin, and to follow your path.  
Forgive us for those times we do not listen or obey.  
Have mercy on us when we do not live in your grace.  
Renew us and make us whole, we pray,  
so that in this broken world we may be bearers of peace and goodness.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from I John 3)  
In scripture we read: "See what love the Father has given us,  
so that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are."  
Children of God, we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins,  
and set free to love and be loved. Alleluia! Amen.

\*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 Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20

<sup>1</sup> Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.  
<sup>2</sup> As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the  
wicked perish before God. <sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God;  
let them be jubilant with joy. <sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to  
him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the Lord— be exultant before him. <sup>5</sup>  
Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. <sup>6</sup> God gives  
the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the  
rebellious live in a parched land. <sup>7</sup> O God, when you went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness, Selah <sup>8</sup> the earth quaked, the heavens  
poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God,  
the God of Israel. <sup>9</sup> Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored

your heritage when it languished; <sup>10</sup> your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

<sup>19</sup> Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah

<sup>20</sup> Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belongs escape from death.

#### 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.**

ATHEM

*Day of Arising*

Carl Schalk

#### MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

#### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 24:13-36

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' <sup>19</sup>He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay

with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. <sup>36</sup>While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’

## THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

*EASTER HOPE*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 645 *Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

Heavenly Father, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift.

We come before You in thanksgiving, seeking Your blessing of our gifts. Use what we bring, and all that we are, to the service of Your Kingdom. We pray through the name of our risen Lord, Jesus 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 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to our dear church family for all the cards, calls, texts, visits, food and especially your prayers and love after my recent surgery. We are thankful and blessed to be a part of this Christian community and family!  
Hope Hale

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 am at Pete's Deli.

We will be taking the Hunger Buster bags to the PCC on April 22nd. If you would like to participate, you can pick up a bag from the narthex, fill it and return it to the church by April 21st.

If you have not already done so, please take a few moments after service to view two framed documents on display in the Narthex which include a letter of accreditation presented to Northminster Presbyterian Church (previously Williamson Road Presbyterian Church) for helping establish Church Women United, along with the supporting newspaper article of 1943 referencing the (Council of Church Women which was later re-named Church Women United (CWU).

#### Calendar

Today	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast at Pete's Deli
Nest Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School 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**

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

