

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

*February 25, 2024*  
*Second Sunday of Lent*



**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

Genesis 17:1-7; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

(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 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.**

**There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven.**

**There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 63)

Minister: O God, my God, I am eager to find You,  
my heart is thirsty for you.

**Congregants: In my weakness I yearn for You,  
as though in a dry and weary land.**

Minister: Your grace is better than life itself,  
and so I praise You all my days.

**Congregants: As long as I live, I will praise You,  
and I will lift up my hands in adoration.**

Minister: Let us come together and worship our God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 213 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of all glory, God of all goodness,  
to Whom all hearts are open and all desires known,  
and from Whom no secrets are hidden,**

**be with us now as we come to You in worship.  
Cleanse the thoughts and feelings within us  
by the inspiration and guidance of Your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may encounter Your loving presence.  
We come seeking Your peace, Your joy, Your comfort.  
We confess that we have sinned against You  
by what we have said and done  
and by what we have left unsaid and undone.  
In Your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us to change what we are,  
and transform us into what we should become,  
so that we may delight in Your Will and walk in Your Way,  
to the glory of Your holy name, in Christ.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear good news! Through God's grace in Jesus Christ,  
we are a new creation, ready to shine like the sun  
giving God the glory and finding our true joy in Him.  
Know this: in the name and through the love of our Lord and Savior,  
we are forgiven, and promised eternal life. Praise be to God!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 576     *Lord, Have Mercy***

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD    I Peter 2:21-25**

<sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' <sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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 *I Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies*

Mendelssohn, arr. W. Dunsmore

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 14:25-33

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Open us, Holy One, to Your Word and Your Way.**

**Clear our minds of daily distractions.**

**Fill our hearts with the humility we need,**

**so that we can hear and receive Your message this day.**

**In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

*COSTLY DISCIPLESHIP*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS

\*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 718 Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought for the month:

Algonquian Indians lived in the Roanoke Region for centuries. This tribe gardened, hunted, and fished, using bones and shells for utensils and regalia. Tanned animal skin and fur became clothing. "We also only took from the land what we needed, and there was no waste; so conservation is key," Let us continue to practice conservation in our lives to preserve our land and waters.

Earth Care:

Take a break from online shopping. Online shopping produces a lot of packaging waste and produces excess carbon emissions from airplanes and vehicles. Take a month off online shopping or reduce what you buy online. Try to make purchases closer to home!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MINISTER WILL BE ON FAMILY LEAVE the next two weeks. We will hold him in our prayers as he cares for Kay following surgery. Elder Pam Claterbaugh, a Commissioned Pastor in the Presbytery, will preach and lead worship the next two Sundays.

Lenten devotional booklets are available. We have one per family. They can be picked up at the narthex table.

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH will meet this afternoon after morning worship, in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. EVERY member of the church family is encouraged to join one of the Ministries. The Ministries include Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, and Stewardship. For more information, or if you would like to serve, contact the Minister.

### 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  
Susie Tallmage, Secretary  
Melissa Hudson, Music Director  
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	Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines
Jake Hayes	Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer
Sheila Lancaster	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Patsy Linton		

**Friends and Family**

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Steve Brammer	Glenna Brammer
Lucy Collier	Annette Daughy
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