

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

*February 4, 2024*  
*Fifth Sunday of Epiphany*



**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 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

(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 2 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

**Come, thou almighty King,**

**help us thy name to sing;**

**help us to praise:**

**Father, all glorious,**

**o'er all victorious, come,**

**and reign over us,**

**Ancient of Days.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 147)

Minister: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving!

**Congregants: How good it is to sing praises  
to our God.**

Minister: God is gracious, healing the brokenhearted,  
binding up their wounds.

**Congregants: God's understanding is beyond measure,  
so we come to praise the Lord!**

Minister: Let us worship God Almighty!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of grace, God of goodness, God of glory,**

**we gather this day to worship You and to seek Your Way.**

**You know each of us by name, and You know our hearts.**

**You know every step we take, and every word we speak.**

**You know how often we fall into sin, and You seek to save us.**

**It is so tempting to give up and to give in,  
to hide from our brokenness and our need for You,  
to focus on and protect ourselves and our own.  
Forgive our sins, we pray--sins of omission and commission.  
Renew us, holy God, and strengthen us to follow Christ's call.  
Hear these our deep and silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The psalmist promises that "the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." His love for us never ends. So know and live the truth that you are forgiven, and be at peace. To God be the glory!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

(All will sing the verse twice)

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the

powerless. <sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

#### 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

*Beautiful Savior*

arr. Carl F. Mueller

#### MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

##### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 1:1-14a

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

##### THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Open us, Holy One, to Your Word and Your Way.  
Clear our minds of all distractions, fill our hearts  
with a hunger to hear and understand.  
Startle us with Your truth and revelation,  
that we might be drawn closer to You.  
Through Christ, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*THE WORD OF GOD*

Dr. Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 459 *O Word of God Incarnate*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Heavenly God, our Creator and Provider,  
You have blessed us with gifts beyond our knowing.  
With joy and gratitude for all we have been given,  
we bring our gifts to You, in thanksgiving and dedication.  
Use these gifts that we might share the love of Jesus,  
our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. 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 744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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

Join us for our Souper Bowl luncheon today after the morning worship service soup and sandwiches will be served.

The Souper Bowl supports the LOA for Seniors. During the month of January through the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, we will be collecting soup, crackers, ramen noodles, peanut butter or other non-perishable foods. Donations can be left in the narthex. Donations will be taken to the collection site on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in the morning worship service on February 18, the first Sunday of Lent. Please be in prayerful preparation as we come to the Lord's Table of grace.

THE 2024 CHURCH FAMILY DIRECTORY AND PLANNING (AND PICTURE!) CALENDAR are available for all in the congregation, so make sure you get yours! MANY THANKS to Debbie Newman and her great team putting these wonderful gifts together!

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Souper Bowl Luncheon
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  
Ministers...Members of Northminster

Melissa Hudson, Music Director  
Lauren Axelson, Nursery Attendant

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**

Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling
Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
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 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