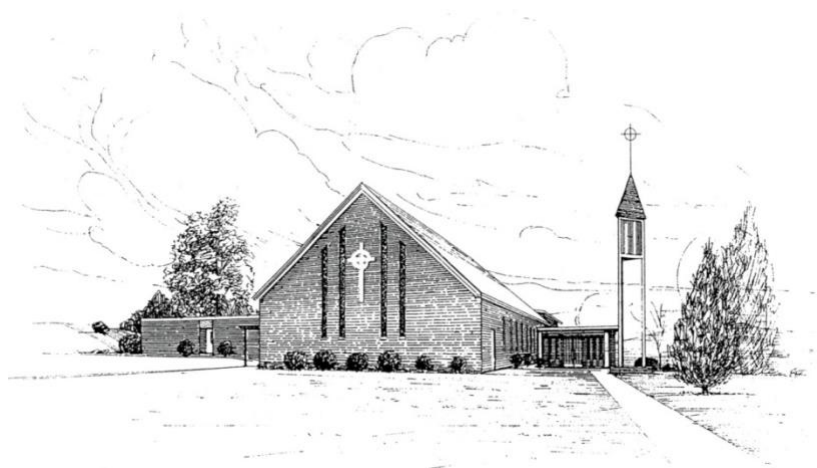


**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

*January 14, 2024*  
*Second 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

I Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; I Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

(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 408 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 139)

Minister: Where can we go from God's Spirit?

**Congregants: If we ascend to heaven, God is there,  
and if we make our bed in Sheol, God is there.**

Minister: If we take the wings of morning  
and settle in the farthest limits of the sea--

**Congregants: Even there God's hand shall lead us,  
and God's right hand will hold us fast.**

Minister: God is with us now and forever,  
so come, let us give Him worship and praise.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 156 *Sing of God Made Manifest*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious and eternal God, Lord of past, present, and future,  
we give You thanks for Your presence in our lives.**

**Be with us now as we gather for worship.**

**Bless us in our praise, in our prayers, in our hearing Your Word.**

**Bring us closer to You, and strengthen us for Your service.**

**As we stand at the beginning of this new year,  
we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short.  
Forgive us of our sinfulness, we pray.  
As we look ahead to what is before us, help us to follow where You lead.  
Show us how to be Your children, heirs of Your Kingdom,  
forgiven and freed to live for Christ and for one another in love.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear this: Jesus Christ came into this world  
so that sinners such as you and I can be forgiven.  
In his name, and through his grace alone, we are saved.  
Praise be to God!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me***  
(the choir will introduce the verse)

**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 11:6-9

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**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

## MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 1:9-20

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' <sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

### THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Almighty God, as we hear Your Word read and proclaimed,  
may it touch our hearts and mind and spirits,  
and may our lives reflect Your truth and Your love. Amen.**

### THE SERMON

### *WHERE THE SPIRIT LEADS*

Dr. Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 721 *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

### \* PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \*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 410 *God Is Calling through the Whisper*

\*CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought for the month:

For the earth is the Lord's and all it contains. I Corinthians 10:26

Earth Care:

Make a "Green New Year's Resolution Happy New Year! Start the year by choosing a "green" resolution that is meaningful to you. How can you make more eco-conscious choices this year? How can you care for creation in 2024?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Circle 1 will meet this Tuesday, January 16, at 10:00 am.

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

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION has been called by the Session for Sunday, January 28, at the end of the morning worship service, to receive information about the 2024 budget and to elect persons to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee. Also, during the service, newly elected elders will be installed for Session service.

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Session will be held following the January 28 worship service. All 2024 elders are encouraged to be present. If anyone has business or other matters for the Session, or if you would like to join Northminster as an active member, please contact the Minister.

We will **no longer** be collecting used printer cartridges. Instead of putting them in the landfill, you can take them to Staples where they collect all sizes. Thanks for your participation in this project.

#### Calendar

Today	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
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  
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 Daughy
Terry Foss	Molly Guerrant
Gladys Hughston	Skylar Kirby
Vicki Widener	

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Tom Hale, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Daniel Kirby, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Dora Slee, Gayle Wise