

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

January 21, 2024
Third 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

Jonah 3:1-5; Psalm 62:5-12; I Corinthians 7:29-31

(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 744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey, show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 62)

Minister: In God alone there is rest for my soul,
from Him comes my security.

**Congregants: God is my Rock, my Fortress,
and with Him I can never fail.**

Minister: God is the source of our hope,
the promise of every tomorrow.

**Congregants: In God is our strength and our peace,
let us rest in Him forever.**

Minister: Let us gather here and now,
to worship and praise our God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 630 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal and almighty God,

You have laid before us a path of wholeness.

**You have called us into a genuine community of love,
and have given each of us gifts for a life of service.**

All creation reflects the overflowing of Your love.

You have shown us what is good and right,

**and have through Your beloved Son Jesus Christ
opened the door to salvation and eternal life.**

**Yet we live as though we do not know Your grace.
We sin by what we have done and what we fail to do.
We create chaos and brokenness in Your creation,
and so often we do not follow where You lead.
We come now seeking forgiveness and reconciliation,
that we might obey Your Word and live in Your mercy.
Cleanse us and guide us, we pray.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Lamentations 3)
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies
never come to an end. They are new every morning.
Hear the Good News: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven,
and life is made new! Live now in peace, in hope, and in joy!
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 John 11:17-31

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' ²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and

told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

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 John 11:32-44

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Gracious God, illumine these words by Your Spirit,
so that we might hear what You would have us hear
and be who You would have us be,**

for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

THE SERMON

SECOND CHANCES

Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 522 *I Am the Bread of Life* (Verses 4 and 5)

* 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 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (Verses 1, 2 and 5)

*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

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 collected 160 items from the Mitten Tree this year. RAM will receive 45 items for the adults and West End Center will receive 115 items for the children. Thank you to everyone that contributed, knowing they will keep a lot of people warm this winter.

Join us for our Souper Bowl luncheon on February 4th after church. Soup and sandwiches will be served. If you would like to volunteer to bring soup for the luncheon, please let Lynn Kirby know.

The Souper Bowl supports the LOA for Seniors. During the month of January through the 4th 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 5th.

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	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Pastor
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Lauren Axelson, Nursery Attendant
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

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

