

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

March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday



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

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 65:17-25; I Corinthians 15:19-26

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

THE REFITTING OF THE SANCTUARY

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG (unison)

**This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made!
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made!
We will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made!**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Congregants: Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Minister: This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: He comes now to us, that we might believe
and share his love and gospel to the world.

Congregants: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord of life!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Glory to You, O God of grace and glory.
You have won victory over death
by the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,
raising him from the grave and giving us eternal life.
In his death on the cross we find redemption,
and through Your Holy Spirit
You guide, protect, and strengthen us each day.
Grant us the resolve to die daily to our sinfulness,
so that we might live with him
in the hope, joy, and assurance of his resurrection.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear good news! Christ himself bore our sins
in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin,
we can live for righteousness.
Through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! Praise be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 238 *Thine Is the Glory* (Verse 1)

**Thine is the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever! ² Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: 'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; ¹⁶ the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.' ¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. ¹⁸ The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. ¹⁹ Open to me

the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.²³ This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Lloyd Larson

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 20:1-18

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**Living God, with joy we celebrate
the presence of Your risen Word.
Enliven our hearts with Your Holy Spirit.
Startle us with Your truth.
Open our hearts and minds to the good news
that Jesus Christ is risen indeed.
Open our spirits and our intellects to the news
that he is Lord of life, even over death,
and that love shall never lose, throughout eternity,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE SERMON

DEATH BE NOT PROUD

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 277 *Hail Thee, Festival Day!*
(Easter Verses 1 and 2)

Choir will sing the Verses, Congregation will sing the Refrain

Congregational Refrain:

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord
was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

Choir Verse 1:

All the fair beauty of earth from the death of the winter arising!
Every good gift of the year now with its Master returns:

Congregational Refrain:

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord
was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

Choir Verse 2:

Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation.
Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all:

Congregational Refrain:

**Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord
was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.**

*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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Hymn 522 *I Am the Bread of Life*

Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 236 *The Strife Is O'er*

CHARGE Christ is risen, so fear nothing!

Go forth in the name of Jesus,
our risen and ever-present Lord,
living always his commandment
to love one another as he has loved us.

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by the Presbyterian Women to the glory of God and in memory of members who have entered the Church Triumphant.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Big thank you to the "heavenly choir" who sang Happy Birthday to me. All 99 years of me loved it! I love each and every one of you. - Fran Bowling

We will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this Sunday. Join Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

Hunger Busters will be collected over the next four weeks. If you would like to participate, please pick up a bag in the narthex, fill it, and return it to the church. The food goes to support the Presbyterian Community Center pantry.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Easter Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2
Nest Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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

