

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

*April 19, 2026*  
*Third Sunday of Easter*



**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

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING SONG 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* Easter Hymn

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, based on Psalm 9)

Minister: I will give thanks to the Lord  
with my whole heart.

**Congregants: I will tell of Your wonderful deeds.**

Minister: I will be glad, and will find my joy in You.

**Congregants: I will sing praise and thanksgiving  
to You, O Most High.**

Minister: Our souls wait for the Lord, for He alone  
is our help and shield.

**Congregants: O Lord, let Your steadfast love  
be upon us, as we build our hope in You.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our Lord.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 238

*Thine Is the Glory*

Judas Maccabeus

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, You are holy, and we praise and celebrate  
Your wonderful deeds of power and mercy and love.**

**We worship and praise and adore You as our one true God.**

**Yet we know well how far short of Your glory we fall.**

**Merciful God, we pray the Lord's Prayer regularly,  
but we do not always walk the walk or talk the talk.**

**We pray that Your Kingdom will come, that Your Will be done,  
but we are reluctant to do the work of that Kingdom.  
We ask for our daily bread, and then do not share with others.  
We ask for Your forgiveness, but we ourselves are slow to forgive.  
Loving God, have mercy on us, and forgive our many sins.  
Help us to seek Your Will for our lives, and to walk  
the path of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.  
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE HYMN 232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* Easter Hymn  
**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured. Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD John 20:19-29

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>l</sup>, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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

*To Glory in the Lord*

Susan Naylor Callaway

O Christ, our hope, our heart's desire, redemption's only spring;  
Creator of the world art thou, its Savior and its King.

How vast the mercy and the love which laid our sins on thee;  
And led Thee to a cruel death to set the people free.

But now the bonds of death are burst, the ransom has been paid;  
And Thou art on Thy Father's throne, in glorious robes arrayed.

O Christ, be thou our lasting joy, our ever great reward;  
Our only glory may it be to glory in the Lord.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD

I Corinthians 15:50 - 16:3

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Look, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

<sup>55</sup> "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**16** Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week, each of you is to put

aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. <sup>3</sup> And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Our heavenly Father, Source of all wisdom and truth, some of us are here because this is what we do every Sunday. Some are here to think more about what we pondered on Easter. We know that every Sunday is an Easter celebration, but each week is different, and so we come to hear the Word you have for us today. Startle us with the newness of Your mercy and grace, and open our hearts and minds and spirits to Your goodness, Your guidance, Your amazing and eternal love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*THE "THEREFORE" FACTOR*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 250

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

Promise

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (Unison)

**Heavenly Father, we know that every good and perfect gift comes from Your righteous and generous hand. With glad and responsive hearts, we give back to You that which is Yours, which You have given to us as stewards. With open hearts and willing hands, may we joyfully use Your gifts to share the good news and the love of Jesus Christ, Your indescribable gift to this world. Amen.**

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the "Presbyterian Confession of 1967")

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself. We profess that Jesus Christ is God with us, the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. We believe that the risen Christ is present in the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all we say and believe**

**about God, ourselves, and the world.  
Praise be to Him!**

## **GO FAITHFULLY**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 245

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

Llanfair

CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH will meet following the worship service next Sunday, April 26. Lunch will be served. IF YOU FEEL CALLED to share more deeply and fully in God's work at Northminster, you are encouraged to join a Ministry: Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, or Stewardship. Let the Minister know if you are interested, or if you have questions.

You are invited to the PCC Open House on May 29th. It will begin at 10:30 and end at 6:00 pm. with a ribbon cutting at 12:30. Because of safety concerns, they will need the names of people who are planning on attending. Please contact Lynn Kirby and she will put you on the list. The PCC is incredibly thankful to the members of Northminster for the volunteer work and contributions made to this organization. If any of you worked in the old building, you will be pleasantly surprised at how nice the new building has turned out.

We dropped off 10 bags of food to the PCC. Thanks to all who donated!

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Ministry Meeting

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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**

Bill Bailey	Joyce Barker	Rob Barker
Di Brammer	Pam Claterbaugh	Karen Smith
Maggie Hambrick	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
Mary Anne Huff	Dennis Kincer	Skylar Kirby
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Sandy Smith
Dora Slee	Kathy Pankavich	

**Friends and Family**

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Dan Cone	Charlie Wilkerson
Glenna Myers	Jack Argobast Jr.
Connie Watkins	Tom Kirby
Owen Merritt	

\*THE SESSION \*

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Emily Allen, Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Karen Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Dave Snider, Ron Staton, Greg Theimer



