

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

March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent



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

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

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

BUILDING THE BODY

GATHERING HYMN 165

The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt Uns, Herr

**The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 19)

Minister: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

**Congregants: The decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple.**

Minister: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

Congregants: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

Minister: The ordinances of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.

**Congregants: God's Word and guidance, His wisdom and truth,
are more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey.**

Minister: Let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 829 My Faith Looks Up to Thee Olivet

*CALL TO CONFESSION (Minister)

Christ calls us to live lives in harmony with our God and our neighbors, but even our best efforts fall short. Yet our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting that abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together.

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

God of righteousness, we confess

**that we have not kept Your commandments.
We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance
to other powers and principalities.
We take Your name in vain,
using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions.
We do not remember Your goodness to us,
nor use Your gifts as You intend.
We are broken, and need Your forgiveness.
Purify us by Your righteousness, and enfold us in Your grace.
Sanctify our intentions and actions, so that our lives
will reflect Your glory and will follow Your path.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Minister)**

Hear these words from God's own Word.
The grace of Christ is sufficient for our healing,
for our forgiveness, for our salvation.
In his name, we are made new,
we are washed clean, and God's promises are ours.
Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE HYMN 576**

Lord, Have Mercy

Singapura

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance

produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER / 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.

BELL VOLUNTARY

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**O God, sometimes life feels like a little boat in a big storm.
We come here to experience a bit of quiet, a sense
that even though we may feel life is out of control,
You are still Sovereign. Startle us now with Your truth,
open our hearts and minds to Your Living Word,
and grant us understanding and peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERMON
Merritt

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM...

Dr.

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 463

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND GIFTS (unison, from #708)

We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be.

**All that we have is Thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.**

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Presbyterian "Brief Statement of Faith")

In life and death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in one triune God, The Holy One,
Whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples
to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries,
to work with others for justice and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks,
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch and wait**

**for God's promised new heaven and new earth,
praying "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Solid Rock

*CHARGE

Go in our Lord's peace, and be his peace to the world.

Go in our Lord's hope, and be his hope to the world.

Go in our Lord's love, and be his love to the world.

*THE BENEDICTION

As you go forth in His name,
may the grace of God cover you,
the love of Christ shine within you,
and the Spirit's strength propel you forward,
this day and forevermore. Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS BI-MONTHLY MEETING following the worship service today. If you have matters for the elders, or if you would like to join Northminster, let the Minister know. Lunch will be served.

Join us March 29, 2026 from 8:30am-10:00am for a Pancake Breakfast! We look forward to your fellowship on Palm Sunday and we hope you can stay for Sunday School at 10:00am. There is a sign-up list in the Narthex. We look forward to seeing everyone on March 29.

A SPECIAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7:00, as we celebrate together the last supper of our Lord.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated at our Easter Sunday morning worship service.

The Presbyterian Women will be collecting items for Sunnyside March 22-May 2. Useful items for their residents are shampoo, lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes, mouth wash, combs, brushes, shaving cream, deodorant (for men and women), bath soap, tissues, puzzles, books: crossword, search, daily devotionals and anything that the residents can use.

You can pick up a Lenten devotional booklet in the narthex.

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	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Next Sunday	8:30-10:00am	Pancake Breakfast
	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	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

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

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
Vicki Widener	

*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

