



## ***Northminster Presbyterian Church***

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

10:30am

Chimes

Lighting the Christ Candle

\*Gospel Reading – Mark 16:1-8

\*Hymn #245

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!  
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia! Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

\*Call to Worship

This is the good news—  
the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

This is the good news—  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never put it out.

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

This is the good news—  
once we were not a people;  
now we are God's people.

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace  
we now share with each other.

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

Hymn #239 (remain seated)      *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.  
Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord  
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Call to Confession

### Prayers of Confession

O God our Father, you gave your only Son,  
and therefore your very Self,  
to suffer death on the cross for our redemption,  
and by his glorious and surprising resurrection  
you delivered us from the power of death.

**Grant us the grace to die daily to all sin,  
that we may evermore live with him  
in the joy of his remarkable resurrection,  
and grant us the grace to bless others  
with your glorious and surprising love.  
Through Jesus our Christ and our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.**

**Hear our prayers ...**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #553      *Christ Has Died; Christ is Risen*

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (F major), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final half note. The second staff is identical to the first but ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics 'Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.' are written below each staff.

## Remembering our Baptisms

### Affirmation of Faith — from the Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in 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 the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Thanksgiving for the Confirmation Experience

*Carolyn Goode*  
Natalie Vernon  
Isabel Davis

*Elizabeth Goode*  
Rosie Miles  
Betty Lamb

*Rebecca Goode*  
Kim Emener  
Sarah Morrow

*CJ Preyna*  
Austin Emener  
Frank Ellis

*Matthew Preyna*  
Sandra Ridgeway  
Allen Fatkin

Hymn #645 (remain seated)

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.  
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right:  
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,  
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:  
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:  
to God all praise and glory!

\*Passing the Peace

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

\*Hymn #606

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Scripture – Luke 24:13-55

Hymn #260 (remain seated)

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone!  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne.  
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

Sermon – Friday strangers become Sunday Friends

\*Hymn #248

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

Prayer of Intercession, Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy name, Thy Kingdome 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.**

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Sung Response

Northumbria Community

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude



## Information & Announcements

### Welcome Friends and Guests!

Whether you are sharing in the worship of God with us for the first time, visiting with family or friends, or returning for a visit to your home church, we welcome you today in the name of Jesus. Please share some contact information in the red book located in the pew so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship.

### Prayer Concerns

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

*Ongoing Prayer Requests:* Our Flint River Presbytery and campus ministries; *Current Member Concerns:* Jane Prentice; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; Evelyn Clark; Annette Hutto; Jeff, Lynn, Josh and Hannah Denny - *Current Friends and Family Concerns:* Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Susan Garrett (colleague of Gregg Reed, cancer diagnosis); Cody Hynes - *Military Personnel Prayer List:* Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson); Nicholas Sanchez (Kathy McCord's godson); James Watwood; Carter Eddlemon (Doug & Carol Holt's grandson)

### **Sanctuary Flowers**

This week's flowers fill our sanctuary from those in our congregation honoring loved ones, both present and past. See your insert for details.

If you would like to contribute to the weekly flower arrangements, whether in celebration of a special event or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the board in the foyer. Arrangements are \$65 (payable to Northminster) and can be taken home with you or gifted to one of our homebound or sick members.

### **Adult Sunday School**

April 27-May 18, Andrew Gardner from Mercer University, will lead "Confronting Christian Nationalism." We will then break for the summer.

### **Children's Sunday School**

Children meet downstairs in room 123 at 9:30AM every Sunday morning. For adults wanting to attend Sunday School, you may take your children to the nursery room upstairs by the kitchen to wait with a leader until children's Sunday School begins.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing – April 20<sup>th</sup> Special Offering**

Millions of people lack asset to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing-Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People-all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development. Their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. This offering will be collected today. Envelopes are available at the welcome desk.

### **Office Hours**

The Church office will be closed Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> through Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Our calling at Northminster is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News; SESSION of Ruling Elders: Mark Brown; Barbara Fatkin; Amy Maley; Nita McCord; Michael Napier; Renea Preyna; Gregg Reed; Jeanne Roddenberry; Amanda Smith; Gail Walker

RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate

SAM ALDERMAN, III, Interim Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

**Office hours:** Tuesday-Friday 9:00-1:00; Sunday 7:00-1:00; Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911

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# *Easter Lily Arrangements*

The following members and friends of Northminster contributed to the beautiful lilies that enrich our Easter Service today.

- Roger & Linda Andersen** in loving memory of their parents, Stella & Fred Andersen and Helen & Eber Heston
- Larry & Margaret Cannon** in loving memory of their daughter and Bethany's mother, Margaret Alison Cannon
- Virginia Cowsert** in loving memory of William Cowsert
- Lynn Davis** in loving memory of her parents
- Steve Davis** in loving memory of Katheryn and Walter Davis
- Jeff & Lynn Denny** in honor and appreciation to their Northminster church family
- Betsy Fatkin** in honor of her four sons, Allen, Earl, David, & Keith and their families; in loving memory of her little daughter, Leslie Ann, and dearest husband Earl Fatkin
- Alice Fincher** in loving memory of her mother, Flippy Denton and her husband, Doug Fincher
- Mr. & Mrs. Ellsworth Hall, III** in loving memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Hall, Jr. and Judge & Mrs. W. A. Bootle
- Roland & Judy Hill** in loving memory of their parents & Judy's sister, Dr. Catherine Wooddy; in honor of their children and grandchildren
- Jan Hirsh** in loving memory of her mother, Lavenia Kimbell and her husband, Alvin Hirsh
- Doug and Carol Holt** in loving memory of their parents
- Allison Jones** in loving memory of her mother, Karen Jones
- Betty Lamb** in loving memory of her parents, Frank P. and Isabel S. Lamb
- Gwen Kitchens** in loving memory of her husband, Beau Kitchens
- Amy Maley** in honor of her parents, Bill & Nancy Heil and Dan Maley's parents, Dick & Aileen Maley
- Ken Mayhew** in honor of his beloved wife, Fran Mayhew
- Pat McCall** in loving memory of her father, James McCall, mother, Ada McCall, and sweet dog, Rascal
- Sam & Jinny McDuffie** in loving memory of family and friends passed
- Brad & Rosie Miles** in loving memory of their wife & mother, Nancy Miles
- Nita Mitchell** in loving memory of Stephen McKinley
- Ray & Kaye Mosely** in loving memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ussery and Revelle Massey
- Charlotte Nolan** in loving memory of her husband, Jim Nolan
- Bernadette Preyna** in loving memory of her husband, Frank Preyna
- Brian & Renea Preyna** in loving memory of Brian's father, Frank Preyna and Renea's parents, Norm & Carol Young
- Gregg & Julie Reed** in loving memory of Gregg's father, Robert Reed and Julie's mother, Mary Eichman
- Sandra Ridgeway** in loving memory of her mother, Louise Andrews and brothers, Alfred and Terry Andrews
- Nancy Sasser** in loving memory of her son, Jonathan Killen
- Donna Shuford** in loving memory of her sweet daddy, Andy Weaver, friend Karen Jones, and parents-in-law, Betty and Harry Shuford
- Larry & Kathy Smallwood** in honor of their six granddaughters, Matilyn, Colleen, Ansley, Sydney, Libby & Milly
- Suzann Smith** in loving memory of her husband, Ricky Smith & loved ones and in honor of her sons, Bart Smith and Clay Waddell
- Jan Stocks** in loving memory of her husband, Norm Stocks and parents, Eber & Helen Heston
- Sharon Sulkers** in loving memory of her husband, Steve Sulkers and parents, Pat & Margaret Poole
- Amy Vogt** in loving memory of Bob Vogt
- Kenny & Gail Walker** in loving memory of their parents
- Ann Weaver** in loving memory of her husband, Andy Weaver and friend, Karen Jones



Christ calls us to live for our neighbors. Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. He commanded his disciples to live the same way. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our neighbors on this planet. Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves.

*Presbyterian Declaration of Faith*

We thank thee, O Lord, for this wonderful gift of friendship. We thank thee for all those whose friendship has been a light on our path. We pray for our friends; for our comrades in the fight, with whom we are joined in the same faith and the same service; for those who know thee and those who do not yet know thee; for those who are going through times of loneliness, of suffering, or of doubt, and whom we name secretly in our hearts. We commit one another to thy mercy. Increase our faith; increase our love.

Suzanne De Dietrich (1891–1981)  
French Protestant theologian

The basic necessities of our faith are not bricks and mortar, vestments and pews, but rather bread, wine, story, and one another. All we truly need to be the people of God in any time or place is bread, wine, word, and community.

Brother James Koester, Society of Saint John the Evangelist

For I passed on to you Corinthians first of all the message I had myself received—that Christ died for our sins, as the scriptures said he would; that he was buried and rose again on the third day, again as the scriptures foretold. He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve, and subsequently he was seen simultaneously by over five hundred Christians, of whom the majority are still alive ...

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, J.B. Phillips translation

## Monday Morning



Christian faith simply would not be, did it not hear, believe, and tell what once took place between the sixth day of one week and the first of that which followed. What keeps the heart of the Christian church beating, and its blood circulating, if not the story of those days, so endlessly rehearsed, with such infinite variety and such steadfast unalterableness? Sketched out by the very first preachers, subjected to profound reflection by the apostles, extended and elaborated four different ways by the evangelists, later reduced again to apothegms by the drafters of countless creeds and confessions, the story of Christ crucified, buried, and risen continues even now to be told and acted out, year by year and week by week.

The worship of every Sunday is a fleshed-out echo of what Christians have heard happened that third day, that first day of the week. Likewise the church's hymns, when thoughtful, and her preaching, when faithful, re-announce the first proclamation of death's death and sin's atonement. Each act of baptism dramatizes the dying and rising again of the Savior as well as that of those he died and lives to save; and in every celebration of communion the same story is presented and re-presented with particular intensity and unique effect, red wine refocusing the savagery of execution on Golgotha and the breaking of bread re-releasing the astonished cries of recognition in Emmaus. Such is faith's story, which we are invited now to hear freshly as if for the first time; to think about with the widest stretching of our minds and our imaginations; and to make our own, as the key to learning how to live and even how to die.

Alan Lewis, *Between Cross and Resurrection: A Theology of Holy Saturday*

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen:  
not only because I see it, but because by it,  
I see everything else.

**N**ow on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?”

They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”