

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

*December Eleventh the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Sixteen*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 35: 1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10 (Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*
From the new Presbyterian Hymnal

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.

Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary; children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Walt and Marie Haines
Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)
Minister: With what shall we come before the Lord,
and bow ourselves before God on high?
Congregants: God has told us what is good.
Minister: And what does the Lord require of us?
**Congregants: To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**
Minister: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 10 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*
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.

THE OFFERTORY *Prepare Ye the way of the Lord* From the new Presbyterian Hymnal

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 13 *Prepare the Way*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

MSB refers to yellow Memorial Song Book
*Indicates the People Standing

Ushers
Barry and Judy Ferrell, Bob Newman, Tom Olsen

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**God of prophets and apostles,
God of teachers and musicians,
God of those who serve and those who give,
those who pray and those who tend,
through all such faithful ones through the ages
You proclaim the unfolding of what is to come:
future joy and eternal peace and renewed life.
Strengthen our hearts
to believe Your Advent promise
that one day we will walk
in the holy way of Christ Jesus,
where sorrow and tears will be no more
and the journey of God's people
will be in the light of Your glory.
Through the babe in the manger
we make our prayers. Amen.**

* HYMN 3 *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Eternal God, our Judge and our Redeemer,
we confess that we have tried to hide from You,
for we still live in sin.
We have lived for ourselves, apart from You.
We have turned away from our neighbors,
and we too often refuse to help others with their burdens.
We ignore the pain and brokenness of the world,
and pass by the hungry, the poor, the refugee.
In Your great mercy, forgive our sinfulness,
and free us from our selfishness,
so that we can choose Your path
and obey Your commandments and Your Will.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)

The proof of God's amazing love is this:
While we were yet sinners,
Christ died on the cross for us.
Because we have faith in him,
we can now come before God in confidence.
Through the birth, death, and resurrection

of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we are saved! Praise be to him!

* HYMN 9 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verse 2)

*O come Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1-5

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

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 *While We are Waiting, Come* From the new Presbyterian Hymnal

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE / CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP'S

THE SECOND LESSON Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

THE SERMON MAKING ROOM FOR GOD Dr. Russ Merritt

Announcements

Ushers for December 18, 2016 – Mac and Ann Pace

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, December 13, at 11:30 am at Pete’s Deli.

THE NORTHMINSTER FAMILY SHARES ITS LOVE AND SUPPORT with The Seigler family, following the death of Dorothy Seigler, this past week. We praise God for His many blessings, including the assurance of Dorothy’s heavenly welcome.

THE CONGREGATION SHARES ITS APPRECIATION with all the musicians who shared their wonderful God-given talents and their hard work in last Sunday’s “Lessons and Carols” worship experience. It was truly a spiritual blessing for us all!

Next Sunday December 18th, we will have The Joy Gift program following the morning worship service. Come and celebrate the Christmas season and enjoy Christian fellowship. The church will be providing the meat and we ask that everyone please bring a vegetable side dish and dessert. A Christmas program will be presented by the children. And Santa Claus may make a surprise visit!

THERE WILL BE NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE on Sunday, December 25 (Christmas morning). Our service for that day will be held on Saturday, Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00, and will include the celebration of Holy Communion.

December 17th Teddy Bear Toss at ROANOKE RAIL YARD DAWGS GAME!!

Northminster is doing a family outing to see Roanoke’s new hockey team. So bring the whole family and/or a friend with you, and join us at the game! Mark your calendar for December 17, 2016 at 7:05 at the Berglund Center. We will meet at 6:30 to hand out the tickets. The cost is \$8.50/ticket. AND it is a special event night- a Teddy Bear Toss. Bring a Teddy bear to the game, and after the Rail Yard Dawgs score their first goal- we toss our teddy bears onto the ice. They will be collected and distributed to a children’s charity for Christmas. Dana Esworthy is organizing the event, and they expect a big crowd. So we need to know by December 4th who will attend. You can give the money along with the count to either Margie Cundiff or Dana Esworthy before the event or in the offering plate at church. (Write the check to Dana Esworthy please since she is buying the block of tickets.) We are opening this up to everyone in the church, so it should be a lot of fun! If you have any questions, contact either Dana or Margie.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to help provide transportation to church each Sunday for some of our members who could not otherwise attend. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the Minister.

Calendar

Today	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship
Monday Tuesday	6:00 pm 11:30 am	C.E. Committee Meeting Circle 1 at Pete’s Deli
Wednesday Saturday	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Memorial Bells Teddy Bear Toss at The Berglund Center
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship Christmas Joy Gift Meal

IF YOU HAVE A NEED OF THE INTERIM MINISTER, you can reach him at 493-9622, or at rmerritt@brlit.org, or leave a message at the church office. If you do not reach him, leave a message and he will get back to you as soon as possible. (Please do not send him a text--he does not understand that technology!)

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Kara Moretz Campbell	Mary Donato
Eloise Dunagan	Barry Ferrell	Ella Guntner
Tom Hale	Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle
Rose Howard	Atwood Huff	Mary Ann Huff
Jim Maile	Nancy Maile	Jace Newman
Mac Pace	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
George Wingeier	Shirley Wynn	

Friends and Family

Hayley Guthrie – (Grand-daughter of Sheila Guthrie)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)
Mike Duckworth – (brother-in-law of Holly Woodson)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
PHONE: (540) 366-8115

Russ Merritt, Interim Minister
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Lauren Godsey, Nursery Attendant
NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250
WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Class of 2016: Kathy Baker, Sarah Godsey, Greg Cundiff, Chuck Lockard, Tom Olsen
Class of 2017: Lynn Kirby, Judy Ferrell, Matt Graybill, Bob Newman, Dave Snider
Class of 2018: Dana Esworthy, Barry Ferrell, Jyke Jones, Stan Lanford, Ann Pace