

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

THE MISSION STUDY PRESENTATION

THE SECOND LESSON I Corinthians 9:23-26a

²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. ²⁴Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. ²⁵Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly.

THE SERMON PROMISED LANDS AND FINISH LINES Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN 250 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

*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

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*April Thirtieth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen*

Third Sunday of Easter

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER:

Michael Hambrick

THE PASSING OF PEACE

THE GATHERING HYMN 248 (Verse 1) *Hymn to Joy*

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.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Shout out with joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Congregants: Let us rejoice and be glad.

Minister: We worship the Lord with peace and love,
with happy hearts and faithful service.

**Congregants: Let us come into His presence
with thanksgiving and praise.**

Minister: Let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**Mysterious God,
unknown and beyond imagining,**

**Your hand shapes the very cosmos,
Your majesty reigns over the stars,
and yet You have humbled Yourself
as one who is born and lives among us,
suffering and dying for us,
and rising again that we might live.
Be with us now, we pray,
that our worship will be pure
and our witness to Your love true.
Through the risen Lord we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN 305 *Come Sing, O Church in Joy!*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
**We come to You as sinners, O God.
You alone have made us, we belong to You,
in our personal lives, in all that we are,
and in our shared church fellowship.
Yet so often we seek to go our own way,
to create our own future,
to live outside Your guidance and providence.
How foolish we can be!
We need You, in our homes, in our hearts,
in our church, in our lives today
and in our plans for tomorrow.
Forgive our spiritual apathy,
our neglect of others, our sinful ways.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)
God is rich in mercy.
Even though we are dead through our sins,
God's great love for us in Christ Jesus
makes us alive, now and through eternity.
We are saved by His grace alone.
To God by all glory and dominion!

* RESPONSE Hymn 236 (Verse 1) *The Strife is O'er*
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. The strife is o'er, the battle done, The victory of life is won; The
song of triumph has begun. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Numbers 13:1-2, 17-20, 25-33, 14:1-9

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²'Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites; from each of their ancestral tribes you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.'

¹⁷ Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, 'Go up there into the Negeb, and go up into the hill country, ¹⁸and see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, ¹⁹and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the towns that they live in are unwalled or fortified, ²⁰and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be bold, and bring some of the fruit of the land.' Now it was the season of the first ripe grapes.

²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. ²⁶And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷And they told him, 'We came to the land to which you sent us; it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸Yet the people who live in the land are strong, and the towns are fortified and very large; and besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites live in the land of the Negeb; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea, and along the Jordan.' ³⁰But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.' ³¹Then the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against this people, for they are stronger than we are.' ³²So they brought to the Israelites an unfavourable report of the land that they had spied out, saying, 'The land that we have gone through as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are of great size. ³³There we saw the Nephilim (the Anakites come from the Nephilim); and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.'

¹Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ²And all the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron; the whole congregation said to them, 'Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become booty; would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?' ⁴So they said to one another, 'Let us choose a captain, and go back to Egypt.' ⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the Israelites. ⁶And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷and said to all the congregation of the Israelites, 'The land that we went through as spies is an exceedingly good land. ⁸If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹Only, do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they are no more than bread for us; their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.'

NORTHMINSTER WELCOMES NEW MEMBER Michael Hambrick, husband of Maggie and father/father-in-law of Jessee and Christina Amos. We are delighted to welcome Michael into our fellowship and family!

Ushers

Dana Esworthy, John and Lee Ann Kabana, Dave Snider

Acolytes

Abbie Caldwell, Skyler Hayes

Announcements

Ushers for May 7, 2017 – Matt and Susan Graybill, Stan Lanford, Dave Snider
Communion Servers – Barry and Judy Ferrell, Marie Haines

THE NORTHMINSTER FAMILY SHARES ITS LOVE AND SUPPORT with The Lockard family, following the death of Chuck Lockard's mother Rachel Lockard this past week. We praise God for His many blessings, including the assurance of Rachel's heavenly welcome. Let's keep Chuck, Susan and Chloe in our prayers.

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

Today Sunday April 30th, will be a special worship service that will include the results of the membership survey regarding the potential direction of our church. Following the service, we will enjoy a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall followed by a question and answer session. A nursery will be provided for all of the above and don't worry about bringing food – everything will be provided!

Northminster Presbyterian is celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2017. The worship committee is planning a homecoming celebration on Sunday, October 1st with a special service and luncheon to follow the service. If you have a special person you want to be invited, please give the name and address to Judy Ferrell. When we have finalized the plans, we will let everyone know!!

The Synod Men's Conference will be held at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center from July 14-16. For more information, see the brochure located outside of the church office. You can also visit www.midatlanticmen.org.

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.

ALL WORSHIPPERS ARE ENCOURAGED to sit towards the front of the sanctuary, to help build a truly worshipping community with everyone gathered together in praise.

Calendar

Today	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship
Monday	5:00 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Circle 2 with Sarah Godsey
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship / Communion

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250
WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Interim Minister
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Lauren Godsey, Nursery Attendant

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Kara Moretz Campbell	Eloise Dunagan
Barry Ferrell	Tom Hale	Michael Hambrick
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 Gutherie – (Grand-daughter of Sheila Gutherie)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

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

Class of 2019: Margie Cundiff, John Kabana, Allen Kling, Sarah Plymale,

Holly Woodson

