

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 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

Ushers

Jyke Jones, John and Lee Ann Kabana

Acolyte

Mia Esworthy, Maggie Graybill

A NEW SERMON SERIES ENTITLED “CREDO: WHAT WE BELIEVE”, is

based on the essential tenets of the Apostle’s Creed, begins today. Through the next several weeks, our sermons will focus on the basic beliefs found in our common statement of faith. Come join us each week as together we explore and learn more of our Christian doctrine.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*July Twenty third the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen*

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139: 1-12; Romans 8:12-25

(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 403 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion let me enter there, Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed is this place, filled with solace light, and grace.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

Congregants: His steadfast love endures forever.

Minister: Surely the Lord is in this place!

Congregants: This is the house of God.

Minister: Let us worship Him in spirit and in truth!!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

Faithful God, Lord of all that was, is, and ever shall be,

You speak in the light of day and the dark of night.

You care for us with compassion and firmness,

guiding our steps, protecting our path,

urging us to grow in our love for You and one another.

Help us now to be open to Your Holy Spirit,

that we might hear more clearly,

follow more willingly, and love more deeply.

**We pray through the grace of Jesus, our Savior.
Amen.**

* HYMN 662 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
**Gracious God, in Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.
We are slow to give witness to Your love and power.
We have our own desires that demand our devotion.
We sometimes confuse Christ's will and our own.
At times we forget he alone is the source of new life.
Our best efforts fall short, for we are weak and fearful.
Forgive us our many sins, we pray,
and through his blood give us forgiveness and salvation.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)
Paul reminds us, "if we have been united to him in death,
we will certainly be united with him in resurrection."
In Christ, we have new life, eternal life, abundant life—
life that is ours together with God.
Praise His holy name!

*GLORIA PATRI Hymn 581
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is
now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Lamentations 3:1-22
¹I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath; ² he has driven and brought
me into darkness without any light; ³ against me alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day
long. ⁴ He has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones; ⁵ he has besieged
and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; ⁶ he has made me sit in darkness like the dead of
long ago. ⁷ He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has put heavy chains on me; ⁸
though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; ⁹ he has blocked my ways with hewn
stones, he has made my paths crooked. ¹⁰ He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding; ¹¹ he
led me off my way and tore me to pieces; he has made me desolate; ¹² he bent his bow and set me
as a mark for his arrow. ¹³ He shot into my vitals the arrows of his quiver; ¹⁴ I have become the
laughing-stock of all my people, the object of their taunt-songs all day long. ¹⁵ He has filled me
with bitterness, he has glutted me with wormwood. ¹⁶ He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and
made me cower in ashes; ¹⁷ my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; ¹⁸ so I

say, 'Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.' ¹⁹ The thought of my affliction
and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! ²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed
down within me. ²¹ But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²² The steadfast love of the
Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;

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.**

MUSIC VOLUNTARY *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People* Hymn 453
Bob Bielawski, Tom Hale, Jeff Midkiff

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE / CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP'S

THE SECOND LESSON Philippians 2:1-11
¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same
love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in
humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests,
but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though
he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in
human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to
the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should
bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

THE SERMON CREDO: HE DESCENDED INTO HELL Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN 727 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

*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**

Announcements

Ushers for July 30, 2017 – Dave Snider, Greg Theimer, Ray Williams

MANY THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL VBS TEAM for the outstanding program at our annual Vacation Bible School. Under Lynn Kirby's leadership, the entire program was blessed!

We have another wheelchair available "thanks" to Reggie and Margie Lemon. So if the need arises please feel free to request use of the wheelchair. Thank you Reggie and Margie.

Our Summer Worship Service will begin at 10:30 AM, starting on June 4th and continue through August 31st, No Sunday School classes during these months.

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!!

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.

"Devotional booklets and daily scripture reading guides can be found in the hallway outside the fellowship hall in the new wall racks and on the table. Current and past copies of devotional booklets including, *These Days* and *The Upper Room* are available. Please help yourself to any of these excellent publications."

The 2017 Flower Calendar has been placed on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.

Calendar

Today	10:30 am	Summer Worship
Next Sunday	10:30 am	Summer Worship

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

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

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Kara Moretz Campbell	Eloise Dunagan
Barry Ferrell	Michael Hambrick	Jake Hayes
Betty Hinkle	Lois Hopkins	Rose Howard
Atwood Huff	Mary Ann Huff	Jim Maile
Jace Newman	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Ruth St. Cyr	Frances Stevens
George Wingeier	Shirley Wynn	

Friends and Family

Hayley Gutherie – (Grand-daughter of Sheila Gutherie)
Jenny Kirk and her sister-in-law
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