

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

*March Nineteenth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen*

Third Sunday of Lent

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

(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 *Father We Adore You*

Father, we adore You, raise our hearts before You!

How we love You!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Congregants: He alone is the Creator of heaven and earth.

Minister: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Congregants: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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

Congregants: Worship the Lord with gladness.

Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

be with us all. Let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**Almighty God, Everlasting Father,
to Whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from Whom no secrets are hidden,
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds
by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit,**

*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 *Great are You, Lord* Hymn 614

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 166 *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

MSB refers to yellow Memorial Song Book

*Indicates the People Standing

Ushers

John and Lee Ann Kabana, Stan Lanford, Sarah Plymale

Acolytes

Audrey Hayes, Skyler Hayes

**so that in this time of worship
we may perfectly love You,
we can eagerly follow You,
and we can worthily magnify Your holy name.
Through Jesus, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN 386 *Come, Worship God*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Merciful God, we confess
that we have sinned against You
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You
with our whole heart, mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In Your mercy, forgive what we have been,
transform what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in Your Will
and walk in Your ways,
to the glory of Your holy Name.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)

* HYMN 551 *Lord, Have Mercy* (The choir will introduce the hymn)
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Psalm 95:1-7

¹ O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
³ For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. ⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

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

Now We Remain

David Haas

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE / CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP'S

THE SECOND LESSON Acts 9:1-20

¹Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' ⁷The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' ¹¹The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' ¹³But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

THE SERMON

CONVERSION

Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN 518

Your Only Son

Announcements

Ushers for March 26, 2017 – Sarah Plymale

Mary Simpson would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers, calls, and cards that was sent during her recovery.

THE SESSION WILL MEET for its regular monthly meeting next Sunday, March 26, 2017 following the worship service.

The next outing for our Young Adult Fellowship is Friday, April 7th at **Homeplace Restaurant at 6 pm**. We plan to have babysitting set up at the church for those who need it. We have the downstairs room to ourselves at the Homeplace, so that should be fun! The price is \$22.00/person, and that includes EVERYTHING- 3 meats, all the sides, drinks, dessert, tax, and tip! Be thinking about some service project ideas for the group. Margie Cundiff needs to know by April 6th if you are coming and, if possible, can bring a friend or two. You can leave a message at 366-7605 or email her at Margie.cundiff@cox.net.

Bring your Easter basket and join us at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 15th for our annual Easter egg hunt! This year it will be held at Lynn Kirby's house: 7969 Alpine Road. For directions, call 540-588-1782.

If you are interested in contributing candy for the Easter egg hunt, please leave it in the church office before April 9th.

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!!

Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke is continuing their Edmunds Lecture series on March 19-20th. This year, Eric Wall will be the speaker. Mr. Wall was Music Director at First Presbyterian in Asheville, NC where he was known for incorporating tradition with innovation. Eric now teaches Music and Worship at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. His lectures are titled "Big Bang Theories: Music's Theological Work" and "Our Town: Church Song's Bards and Bartenders". More information can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office.

There will be a Spiritual Growth Weekend on April 28-29 at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke. Carl McColman will be the speaker. Mr. McColman is the author of several books on Christian spirituality. He is passionate about helping Christians find greater joy and purpose in their faith through the practice of daily prayer. More information is located on the bulletin board outside the church office.

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
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am 12:15 pm	Sunday School Morning Worship Session Meeting

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Kara Moretz Campbell	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 Gutherie – (Grand-daughter of Sheila Gutherie)
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

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 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