

THE SERMON

ODDBALL SAINTS

Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN 518

Your Only Son

*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

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Hymn 753

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 313

Lord, Make Us More Holy

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

Ushers

Greg and Margie Cundiff. Trent Cundiff, Sarah Plymale

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*March Twenty Sixth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen*

Fourth Sunday of Lent

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

(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 227 *Jesus, Remember Me* (sung twice)

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: We worship the Lord God Almighty,
Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Congregants: Let all the people praise the Lord!

Minister: We worship Jesus Christ, the healer,
the teacher, the Savior.

Congregants: Let all the people praise the Lord!

Minister: We worship the Holy Spirit,
Who brings peace and joy and strength to serve.

Congregants: Let all the people praise the Lord!

Minister: Come, let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**Almighty God, we pray for Your blessing
in this time and this place,
this congregation and its worship.**

**Here may the faithful find salvation,
and the careless be awakened.
Here may the doubting find faith,
and the anxious be encouraged.
Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful be comforted.
Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong renewed.
Here may the aged know Your promise,
and the young be inspired.
We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

* HYMN 1 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
**Gracious God, You call us to everlasting springs
to be washed and refreshed,
to be cleansed and reformed.
Yet we fail to heed Your call.
We do not turn with love to our neighbors,
to ourselves, or even to You.
Forgive us for our many failings,
and guide us and mold us,
shape us and direct us
into the Christ-like life
for which we are called.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

* 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.

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)
Minister: Jesus came to show us the face of love.
He died, and rose, and lives with us and in us.
In the compassion of God, we are forgiven.
Congregants: Praise be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 649 *Amazing Grace* (verse one)
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ² Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

¹¹ You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹² And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord. ¹³ You shall not defraud your neighbour; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a labourer until morning. ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling-block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. ¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord. ¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.

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

O God of Mercy

Simon Lole

THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE / NO JP'S

THE SECOND LESSON Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸ 'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³ 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Announcements

Ushers for April 2, 2017 – Barry and Judy Ferrell, Tom and Jane Olsen

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!!

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
Tuesday	10:30 am	P.W. Meeting
Wednesday	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Memorial Bells Sanctuary Choir
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship

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 Guthrie – (Grand-daughter of Sheila Guthrie)
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