

THE SERMON

“TWO LOVES”

Russ Merritt

HYMN 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

*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

Love the Lord Your God Hymn 62

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

Ushers

Allen Kling, Stan Lanford, Mac and Ann Pace

Acolytes

Mia Esworthy, Maggie Graybill

THOUGHT TO CARRY HOME:

(The French philosopher) Descartes was mistaken: “Cogito ergo sum”—“I think, that I am.” Nonsense. It should be “Amo ergo sum”—“I love, therefore I am.” I believe that. I believe it is better not to live than not to love.

William Sloane Coffin

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*November Twelfth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen*

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; I Thessalonians 4:13-18

(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 336

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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

Congregants: His steadfast love endures forever.

Minister: Choose this day whom you will serve.

Congregants: We will love and serve the Lord.

Minister: Let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**Ever-living God, our Father and Lord,
how wonderful are Your many works of goodness!
You write our names in Your book of life
so that we might live eternally with You.
Give us vision and courage and strength
to be the Church, the Body of Christ on earth,**

**and be present with us now in our worship,
for we pray through the name of Jesus. Amen.**

* HYMN 320 *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
**Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
You love us, but we do not live our love for You.
You speak to us, but we have not listened.
You call, but we do not follow.
We walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We play at the edges of true discipleship,
unwilling to immerse ourselves in Your service.
God of grace, help us to know and to admit our sin,
so that when You come to us in mercy
we may repent, turn to You, and receive forgiveness.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)
Minister: Hear the Good News! God is love,
and in His love He has come to be one of us,
in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.
Christ lived for us, he died for us, and he lives again
that we might know forgiveness and have eternal life.
**Congregants: Through his mercy, we are saved.
Praise be to God!**

*ALLELUIA RESPONSE HYMN 587

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

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

Sing Praises to the Lord

Timothy Shaw

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE / CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP’S

THE SECOND LESSON Matthew 25:31-46

³¹‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, ⁴¹you did it to me.” ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

Announcements

Ushers for November 19, 2017 – Sarah Godsey, Greg Theimer, Ray Williams

A Congregational meeting will be held today, Nov. 12th immediately following the worship service. The purpose for the meeting is to elect five Elders to the Class of 2020. Please plan to attend.

Rose Howard has a new phone number 540-400-0857.

Thanksgiving is coming fast and it is time for one of our traditional projects – Pies For The Rescue Mission. Each year we provide pies that the Rescue Mission can use for their holiday meal. They can be homemade, frozen or “store-bought” ready to eat and any flavor is fine. Bring them to the church kitchen on Sunday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 20. We usually have 25 or more.

Thanks to all the folks who brought in boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please keep these children in your prayers as we go through the Christmas season.

With Christmas around the corner, we are beginning to think about Operation Christmas Child. Boxes and labels are available for pick up in the narthex. Please note: Toothpaste and Candy are no longer accepted in the shoeboxes. Please pick up a box and fill it. You can find ideas on the website <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/> or look at the label brochure. Please bring your boxes to church by November 19th.

Presbyterian Women – The new year for the Presbyterian Women will start January 2018. Work on the year book has started and I will be gathering information on the circles. If you are not a circle member now, I encourage you to join one this coming year. It is a great opportunity for you to become more involved in our Church activities. We have two circles, a morning circle that meets at the Church and a night circle that meets in the homes of members. The meetings usually have a bible study, short business session and of course refreshments and a time to socialize. Call Elise Lanford at 366-7818 if you are interested in joining us this year. If you are a circle member now and your phone number or address has changed or you want to change circles, please let me know. This information is needed by mid-November.

"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	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service Congregational meeting
Monday	6:00 pm	C.E. Committee Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Wednesday	3:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Mission Committee Meeting Memorial Bells Sanctuary Choir
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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	Eloise Dunagan	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Lois Hopkins
Rose Howard	Jim Maile	Floyd Moretz
Jace Newman	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Ruth St. Cyr	Frances Stevens
Lois Waddell	George Wingeier	Shirley Wynn

Friends and Family

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