

THE SERMON

REFORMATION AND GRACE

Russ Merritt

HYMN 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

*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 624

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

Ushers

Greg and Margie Cundiff, Allen Kling, Bob Newman

Acolytes

Mia Esworthy, Maggie Graybill

THOUGHT TO CARRY HOME:

Rather than seeking its own good, the love of God flows forth and bestows good. Therefore sinners are attractive because they are loved. They are not loved because they are attractive. This is the love of the cross.

Martin Luther

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*October Twenty ninth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen*

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 46; Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 8:31-36

(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 408 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 46)

Minister: God is our shelter and our strength,

He is always ready to help in times of trouble.

Congregants: We will not be afraid, even in the face of the worst that life can bring.

Minister: The Lord Almighty is with us,

the God of His people is our refuge.

Congregants: Come and see what the Lord has done, all the amazing things He alone has accomplished.

Minister: Let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**We praise You, O God, for You are gracious.
You have loved us from the beginning of time,
and You remember us when we are in trouble.
Your mercy endures forever.
We praise You, for You came to us in Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world and saved us from our sins.
Your mercy endures forever.
We praise You, O God, for sending us Your Spirit,
to make us holy and to lead us into all Truth.
Your mercy endures forever.
Be with us now, and bless our time in worship.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN 275 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Eternal God, in every age You have raised up
men and women to live and die in faith.
Yet too often today we are indifferent to Your Will.
We confess that You call us to proclaim Your love,
but we are silent, and do not speak Your Truth.
You call us to do what is right and just,
but we remain idle, and do not act in Your name.
You give us strength to live and follow faithfully,
but we give into our fears and our self-serving greed.
In Your mercy, our Father, forgive us.
Give us courage to follow on Your path,
so that, joined with those from ages past,
who have served You with faith, hope, and love,
we may inherit the Kingdom You promise.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Minister: Friends, hear and believe the Good News!
Congregants: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*ALLELUIA RESPONSE HYMN 587

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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.

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

DEDICATION OF 2018 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

THE SECOND LESSON Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access* to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Announcements

Ushers for November 5, 2017 – Emily Allen, Matt and Susan Graybill, Sarah Plymale
Communion Servers – Lynn Kirby, Allen Kling, Bob Newman, Dave Snider, Holly Woodson

THE NORTHMINSTER FAMILY shares its love and sympathy with Judy and Barry Ferrell, following the death of Judy's brother, Douglas Keith. Our prayers are with the Ferrell family.

Many thanks for the kindness and thoughtfulness during the loss of my brother, Douglas Lee Keith. Our Northminster Family has shown so much love. You are always there. Love to each and everyone of you. Judy Ferrell

A Congregational meeting will be held on 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.

NORTHMINSTRER'S ANNUAL CLOTHES DRIVE for refugee and immigrant families working with Blue Ridge Literacy will be held Sunday, October 15, through Sunday, November 5. There is a special need for shoes, for children's clothes, and for cold weather clothing—but ALL clothing is appreciated! Please look through your closets and drawers, and bring any unneeded clothing to church, where we can collect and carry all donations to the hundreds of refugee and immigrant learners at Literacy.

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

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	Eloise Dunagan	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Lois Hopkins
Rose Howard	Jim Maile	Jace Newman
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Ruth St. Cyr	Frances Stevens	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