

THE SECOND LESSON Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’ ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

THE SERMON

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Russ Merritt

*HYMN 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

*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

Go to the World Hymn 295

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

Today we begin to sing a new hymn, 726 Will You Come and Follow Me. The Hymnal gives this description: "The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry."

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*October Eight the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Seventeen*

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14

(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 raise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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

Congregants: His steadfast love endures forever.

Minister: Our Lord God has delivered us from slavery to sin.

Congregants: There is no other God but our Lord Almighty.

Minister: Let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

Heavenly Father, Almighty King, Lord of all,

You call us to righteous living, You give us Your Spirit,

You fill our hearts with the hunger for Your presence.

You set before us the vision and promise of new life in Christ.

**May we live in the power of his resurrection,
and bring forth the fruit of Your gracious rule.
Give us generous and loving hearts,
and eyes to see the splendor of Your reign,
that we might live in truth and honor,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* HYMN 612 *We Praise You, O God*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
**We confess, O Lord, that our discipleship is not strong.
We have not spent the time to grow deeper in faith,
through prayer and study and worship.
We have not opened ourselves to give You
full mastery of our lives.
We have lived selfishly in a world of misery and hunger,
and have not carried the love of Christ to our neighbor.
Forgive us, and help us to become new in Christ.
Let Your love redirect our steps and fill our lives.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Minister)
Hear the Good news: God will not fail in fulfilling
His promises. In Christ, He has promised to forgive
our sins. We can begin again, and live for Him.
Praise be to God!

*ALLELUIA RESPONSE HYMN 587

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Nehemiah 8:1-10

¹all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

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

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

David Childs

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

Ushers
Emily Allen, Allen Kling, Sarah Plymale

Acolytes
Abbie Caldwell, Kaylee O'Conner

Announcements

Ushers for October 15, 2017 – Stan Lanford, Mac and Ann Pace

On behalf of the Worship Committee, a BIG THANKS to everyone who attended and contributed to the 75th Anniversary Celebration. We couldn't have done it without you. All the pictures, old bulletins, newsletters, a sample of the dirt of the church on Greenland as ground was broken. The music was wonderful! Seeing former ministers participate in the service was uplifting. Susie created the beautiful keepsake bulletin. The contributions go on and on. We had a total attendance of 167 persons for the worship. As Chair of the Worship Committee, I truly thank you. It could not have been done without you. Judy Ferrell

The 2017 CROP walk will be held Sunday, October 8th. The walk begins and ends at First Presbyterian Church. Registration begins at 1:30 and the walk begins at 2:00 PM. There will be a choice of a 1 mile loop and a 6 mile loop. CROP is a subset of Church World Service. It operates in the US and internationally. They are known to respond to natural disasters, refugee situations, water needs, flooding, and mosquito-borne illnesses and malaria. Are you interested in participating? Let Lynn Kirby or Susan Graybill know. Pick up an envelope in the narthex and start collecting donations. If you don't want to walk, but are willing to donate, we will have someone in the narthex to collect any monies you would like to give.

FAITH, DEATH, AND DYING, a community seminar open to the general public and featuring outstanding spokespersons from a variety of religious backgrounds, will be held this Thursday evening, October 12, at 7:00 at the DuPont Chapel at Hollins University. Our own Russ Merritt will serve as Moderator for the event, which is free. Come learn more about how various faith traditions deal with the ultimate human challenge!

We want you to join us for PUMPKIN AND COOKIE DECORATING **October 15th** after church. Kids AND parents welcome. This will also be our Young Adult Fellowship! Be sure to come and bring friends!! Lunch will be provided. It would be helpful to let Margie Cundiff or Lynn Kirby know if you can attend so we have enough food and pumpkins! You can email them at Margie.cundiff@cox.net or lkirby7009@cox.net. It will be a fun way to celebrate the fall season!

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.

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.

<u>Calendar</u>		
<u>Today</u>	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service CROP WALK
<u>Monday</u>	6:00 pm	C.E. Committee Meeting
<u>Tuesday</u>	10:00 am	Circle 1
<u>Wednesday</u>	3:00 pm	Mission Committee Meeting
	5:50 pm	Memorial Bells
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
<u>Thursday/Friday</u>		Office Closed
<u>Next Sunday</u>	9:45 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:15 pm	Young Adult Fellowship

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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

