

become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>‘Food will not bring us close to God.’ We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Minister: This is the Word of God.

**Congregants: Thanks be to God!**

THE SERMON

“LOVE BUILDS UP”

Dr. Russ Merritt

\*HYMN 543

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep 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

*Goodness is Stronger than Evil* Hymn 750

\*THE DOXOLOGY

## GO FAITHFULLY

\*HYMN 36

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*THE POSTLUDE

\*Indicates the People Standing

*Ushers*

*Chuck Lockard, Greg Theimer, Ray Williams, Holly Woodson*

## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*January Twenty eight the Year of Our Lord*

*Two Thousand Eighteen*

*Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time*

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## GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28

(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 HYMN 662

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light; Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

**Congregants: Praise Him, all creatures here below!**

Minister: Praise God above, you heavenly host!

**Congregants: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!**

Minister: Let us worship God!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

**O Living God, to every person who gathers here**

**You come to greet and welcome in love.**

**Behind the steady pace of our lives,**

**beneath all the noise and detail and busy-ness,**

**You dwell in the inner sanctuary we call the soul.**

**At this still place, this quiet and holy point in our lives,**

**You spread Your arms, creating peace and tranquility.**

**You bid us to come now to You in worship,**

**to quench our thirst for all that is holy and good in life.  
In this hour, renew us by Your Spirit and Your presence.  
Through our Lord Christ we pray. Amen.**

\* HYMN 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

\*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)  
**Lord, we cry out to You,  
but so often we cry with differing voices.  
We plead for unity  
but do not pay the price of reconciliation.  
So this morning in our worship  
we come before You and confess our failures  
to respond to the suffering and divisions  
of the world, the nation, the Church, our lives.  
O Lord, our God, forgive our sins.  
Have mercy on us, and enable us to be reconciled  
with one another and with You.  
Let the outpourings of Your grace and blessing  
rest upon us and heal our spirits,  
as we seek the unity only You can give us,  
through the Prince of Peace himself.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)  
Minister: Friends, believe the Good News.  
**Congregants: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Praise be to God!**

RESPONSE HYMN 673 (V. 1) *Jesus, Light of Joy* (Insert)

## GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST LESSON Psalm 111

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. <sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup> Full of honour and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures for ever. <sup>4</sup> He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. <sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. <sup>8</sup> They are established for ever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for ever. Holy and awesome is his name. <sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practise it have a good understanding. His praise endures for ever.

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 *Woman in the Night* Hymn 161

Woman in the night, spent from giving birth, guard our precious light;  
peace is on the earth. Woman in the crowd, creeping up behind,  
touching is allowed: seek and you will find!

Refrain:

Come and join the song, women, children, men. Jesus makes us free  
to live again!

Woman at the well, question the Messiah; find your friends and tell:  
drink your heart's desire! Woman at the feast, let the righteous stare;  
come and go in peace; love him with your hair! [Refrain]

Woman in the house, nurtured to be meek, leave your second place,  
listen, think, and speak! Woman on the road, from your sickness freed,  
witness and provide, joining word and deed: [Refrain]

Women on the hill, stand when men have fled; Christ needs loving still, though your hope is dead.  
Women in the dawn, care and spices bring, earliest to mourn, earliest to sing! [Refrain]

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

THE SECOND LESSON I Corinthians 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him. <sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have

Announcements

THE MERRITT FAMILY shares its deep appreciation to the Northminster congregation for all your love and support following the death of our matriarch, Betty Merritt McFadden. For your cards, your calls, your kind words, your presence, your food, your flowers, we are deeply grateful. To God be the glory!

Ushers for February 4, 2018 – Emily Allen

We are making a new address directory. Please check out the sheets on the table in the narthex for any changes that need to be made by your name.

**Join us Sunday, February 4th after church for our Annual Souper Bowl.** We will gather for a lunch of delicious soups and sandwiches. If you are interested in bringing soup for our lunch, please contact Ann Pace at 540-815-9247. We are also collecting cans of soup to be donated to PCC or Soup for Seniors. Everyone welcome! No reservations! Join us!

Just a reminder that the Session has a bulletin board located across from the Secretary’s office. The minutes from Session Meetings and a copy of the monthly Financial Report are posted. Other information in reference to the Session, Elders, committees, etc. can be seen there. Please take time to check out the business of the church.

Inclement weather policy for Sunday Morning Services:

The minister in consultation with Elders will make the decision to cancel church services due to inclement weather. He will notify WSL-10 and WDBJ-7 to announce a cancellation of services. He will also notify Judy Ferrell so that she can send out an email to those who are currently on the the Northminster email distribution list. If you have an email address and are not currently receiving the Northminster emails, please let Judy ([ferrells6@cox.net](mailto:ferrells6@cox.net)) know so that you can be added to the list.

Calendar

<b>Today</b>	<b>9:45 am</b> <b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> <b>Worship Service</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>P.W. Coordinating Team Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Sanctuary Choir</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>9:45 am</b> <b>11:00 am</b> <b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Sunday School</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>Souper Bowl Luncheon</b>

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	Betty Dixon	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Lois Hopkins
Rose Howard	Jim Maile	Floyd Moretz
Jenny Nabywaniec	Jace Newman	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Ruth St. Cyr
Frances Stevens	Jo Ann Threlkeld	Lois Waddell
George Wingeier	Shirley Wynn	

**Friends and Family**

Mike Duckworth-(Holly Woodson’s brother-in-law)  
Cindy Lanford – (daughter-in-law of Stan and Elise Lanford)

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

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  
Class of 2020: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Lynn Kirby, Bob Newman, Dave Snider

10:30 am

Summer Worship