

*THE DOXOLOGY

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN 619 *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

The flowers placed in the sanctuary today are in memory of Piper Noelle Kirby; daughter of Daniel, twin sister of Quinn, granddaughter of Tom and Lynn Kirby and Great granddaughter of Stan and Elise Lanford.

If standing is difficult, please remain seated. Larger print bulletins are available.

*Ushers
Mac and Ann Pace, Holly Woodson*

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*September Twenty third the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Eighteen
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; Mark 9:30-37

(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 267 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia! Amen! Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice; praise is his gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: For by grace you have been saved through faith. This is not our own doing.

All: It is the gift of God— not the result of works.

One: For we are what God has made us; created in Christ Jesus for good works.

All: Yes, it is our way of life.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (unison)

Lord God of hosts, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

You spoke to us in ancient times

through the Law and the prophets.

You came among us in Jesus Christ

to heal and to teach, to cleanse and to save.

Come to us now through Your Holy Spirit.

Remind us of Your promise of eternal life,

**grant us mercy for all our sinfulness,
and renew Your Spirit within us,
that we may rightly praise You
and go forth to serve You,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* HYMN 611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal God, you have called us to gracious living, to love where it is undeserved and unexpected. We confess how quickly we are seduced by the calculating life. We habitually judge who is worthy or unworthy, and measure our actions accordingly. We reward the worthy and withhold from the rest. Forgive our pride, Lord. Forgive our self-deception. Forgive our resistance to unmerited grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Minister)

Hear Good News!

Surely God has heard our prayers,
and will pardon our sinfulness.

His mercy in Christ is everlasting,

and through his blood we are made clean.

Praise His blessed name!

* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

HYMN 538 *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

Hallelujah! We Sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness. Hallelujah! We Sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING GOD'S WORD Psalm 145:8-21

⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹ The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you. ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, ¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶ You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷ The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. ¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹ He fulfils the

desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. ²⁰ The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. ²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and 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

Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord

Thomas Keesecker

Refrain: Taste and See the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of God shall be in my mouth. (Refrain)

I sought the Lord who answered me, the Lord heard me and saved me from my trouble. (Refrain)

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord, let us exalt God's name together! (Refrain)

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

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Acts 4:32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

Grace: The Undeserved, Unexpected Invitation

Rev. Carl Utley

*HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* (unison)

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

Announcements

I would like to thank everyone for their many cards, calls, prayers and concerns during my recent illness. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family at Northminster. Karen Smith

Barbara Jones has been invaluable in helping and managing the youth to the light the candles in the sanctuary before the church service. She has been doing this for many years and we commend her for her organizational skills. The youth always come back and give her great big hugs-she will be missed. A big “thank you” goes to Barbara.

SESSION WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING immediately following this morning's worship service.

OUR ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASS, "Going Deeper", is focused on guiding participants into a more encompassing discipleship and a more fully engaged spiritual pilgrimage. ALL members are encouraged to grow in their faith, and to join us each week at 10:00 for prayer, study, discussion, and discovery!

VOLUNTEER LAY LEADERS FOR WORSHIP are being recruited to help in our morning services. If you feel God leading you to assist in worship (scripture reading, prayer, children's messages, and so forth), please contact the Minister.

Lynn Kirby is raising money to help the Train Tug teams from SE Roanoke and PCC Pathways. If you would like to support that, you can go to <http://biglicktraintug.com/teams/>, click on Kirby Family and hit the donate button. If you would like to support it with a check, you can make the check out to Presbyterian Community Center. All funds raised will go to the PCC programs.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our World Communion worship service Sunday morning, October 7. Please be in prayer and spiritual preparation as we come to the Lord's Table.

As we approach World Communion services on October 7, we are asked to contribute to the Peace and Global Witness Offering on that date. Half of this offering will go to support ministries of peace and reconciliation done by Presbyterians across the globe. The other half will be used support peacemaking in our community and region. Envelopes for this special offering will be in the bulletins on World Communion Sunday.

APPLE BUTTER TIME is upon us and we have a new approach this year! Since most of the “Young Adults” that began this fellowship tradition in 1989 are now retired, we will be procuring apples that have already been peeled and will be boiling the apples on Tuesday, October 23rd. This should shorten the boiling time but does create some uncertainty regarding the exact volume that will be produced. As always, the delicious product will be available on a “first come – first served” basis and is \$8.00 per quart and \$5.00 per pint. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office.

We have a little over 15 weeks until Christmas and 10 weeks until Operation Christmas Child boxes have to be in Charlotte, NC. The Mission Committee has furnished the boxes and we hope that you will fill one. Boxes are located in the narthex. Our boxes go to tropical areas so add a pair of sandals or flip-flops to your box this year.

Rev. Dr. Carl Utley has been the Transitional General Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Peaks since May 1, 2017. Prior to serving at the presbytery office, he was the interim pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church and Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church of Roanoke, having served other pastorates in North Carolina, Nebraska, Texas and Arkansas. He is a 1984 graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in Austin, Texas, where he also earned his Doctor of Ministry degree in 2000 with an emphasis in Preaching and Worship. Carl and his wife, Beth, also an ordained pastor in the PCUSA, have four adult children and split their lives between Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Today	9:45 am 11:00 am 12:15 pm	Sunday School Worship Service Session Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Next Sunday	9:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250
WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

Russ Merritt, Transitional Pastor Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary Lauren Godsey, Nursery Attendant
Ministers...Members of Northminster

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Bobby Brammer	Betty Dixon	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Lois Hopkins
Jane Horeis	Rose Howard	Tom Kirby
Margie Lemon	Jim Maile	Floyd Moretz
Jenny Nabywaniec	Bob Newman	Ramona Ortiz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Karen Smith	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Jo Ann Threlkeld	Bill 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