

**CONGRATULATIONS TO EMMA AND TRENT CUNDIFF**  
**on the occasion of the birth this past Monday morning**  
**of their second son, Brycen. Brycen, his mom and dad,**  
**and big brother Easton are all doing well. We praise God**  
**for His goodness in this miracle of new life!**

**GATHER JOYFULLY**  
**August 23, 2020**

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 1:8 - 2:10; Psalm 124; Matthew 16:13-20

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 23)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He gives me rest in green pastures,

He leads me beside safe and refreshing waters,

He restores my soul.

Surely goodness and mercy shall be with me always,

and I will be with God forever.

Let us worship our Lord.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Be with us in this hour, we pray our Father.

Startle us with Your truths for our lives.

Open our minds and our hearts to Your Spirit,

so that we may be one with Christ our Lord,

and serve as faithful disciples.

We pray through Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 716 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

God, whose giving knows no ending,

from your rich and endless store,

nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,

costly cross, grave's shattered door:

gifted by you, we turn to you,

offering up ourselves in praise;

thankful song shall rise forever,

gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing

toward the goals of Christ, your Son:

all at peace in health and freedom,

races joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.

#### THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus knows our name, he calls us, he offers us abundant life.  
The goodness and mercy of God are with us all our days.  
Trusting in these sure promises, let us confess our sinfulness.

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Loving and merciful God,  
You seek us when we are lost, and guide us throughout life.  
Yet so often we turn from Your path and heed other voices.  
You know us by name, You know everything about us,  
but we refuse to hear Your call and choose our own way.  
Forgive us for failing to follow where You lead.  
Quiet the noise around us and within us  
so that we can better know Your Word and do Your Will  
Hear these our silent prayers

#### THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Even though we walk through the darkest valleys,  
we need not fear evil, for our God is always with us.  
He comforts us, he forgives us, He transforms us.  
Friends, believe the good news: through Christ, we are forgiven.

#### RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

### **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

#### THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Romans 12:4-8

4For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 25:14-30

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." 21His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." 23His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." 26But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, we want to hear Your voice.

We want to know Your ways.

We seek now to listen for Your Word,

and we pray for the courage to follow where You lead.

Through Christ the living Word we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

*"YOU'RE GIFTED"*

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 530 *One Bread, One Body* (Verse 2)

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

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.**

## GO FAITHFULLY

HYMN OF DEDICATION 733 *We All Are One in Mission* (Verses 2 and 3)

We all are called for service  
to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different;  
our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others  
by God's surprising grace,  
so every folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united  
and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel  
for God's redeeming word.  
We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.

THE CHARGE (from the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship)

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage!  
Hold fast to what is good and right.  
Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering.  
Honor all people, and build a better world.  
Love and serve the Lord your God,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.  
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

**Thought for the Week:** Psalm 24: 1-2 *The earth belongs to the Lord, and everything in it-the world and all its people. He built it on the waters and set it on the rivers.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR AUGUST SERMON SERIES is "Basic Christian Beliefs", in which we focus on some of the affirmations of faith found in the Apostles's Creed. Today we are considering the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TODAY, August 23, following the morning worship service. If you would like to join the church membership, or have business for the elders, please let the Minister know.

The Mission Committee would like to thank the people who have contributed food and money to the Blessing Box. It has been very successful and we feel it is filling a need in the neighborhood. Since it is an ongoing project, we will still accept donations and your prayers. Thank you again.

The Presbyterian Center is in need of school supplies and asking for donations. A list of supplies needed is on the bulletin board across from the secretary's office.

People are using our Blessing Box! If you would like to donate food or other non-perishable items for the Blessing Box, please leave them with Susie.

THE OFFERING WILL NOT BE COLLECTED and plates will not be passed during the service, to protect worshippers from any possible surface-based contagion. Plates are located in the narthex, for worshippers to place their gifts following the service.

NORTHMINSTER HAS RESUMED WORSHIP in the sanctuary. The Session has approved a number of guidelines and practices for in-person worship, due to the health concerns of us all. Please be aware of those new practices, and join us in taking steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus. If you need a copy of the guidelines, or have thoughts you'd like to share, please contact the Minister.

Kidvivi is zooming Thursday evenings with music from Melissa, devotion from Lauren, and prayers with Russ. Last week was on prayer and this week is on faith.

Caitlin is zooming with older youth and working on projects.

Northminster is proud to announce we have joined the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**. To participate simply go to the [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) website. Once logged into your **Kroger account**, you can search for **Northminster Presbyterian Church** either by name or code **PL601** and then click **Enroll**. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a *Rewards Card*. **REMEMBER**, purchases will not count for the church until after you register your *Rewards Card*. You must swipe your registered Kroger *Rewards Card* or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger *Rewards Card* when shopping for each purchase to count. If you do not yet have a Kroger *Rewards Card*, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger. Contact Chuck Lockard if you have any questions. Thanks for supporting our work at Northminster!

### Calendar

Today	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Next Sunday	11:00 am	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

If you or someone you know should be included in the list of those needing special prayer, please contact the Minister. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Minister know.

**Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.**

**Members**

Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer	Charlotte Cooley
Michael Hambrick	Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle
Atwood Huff	Barbara Jones	Bob Lancaster
Homer Linton	Floyd Moretz	Mary Moretz
Don Myers	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Jo Ann Threlkeld	Shirley Wynn	

**Friends and Family**

Joaquin Bielawski  
Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)

\*THE SESSION \*

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson  
Elders: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Jeff Echols, Judy Ferrell, Vee Hayes, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Sherry Moses, Bob Newman, Jeremy Newman, Betsy Robison, Dave Snider, Ray Williams, Gayle Wise