

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 30, 2020
GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26; Romans 12:9-21

(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 67)

May God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make His face to shine upon us.

Let all the peoples praise You, O God,
let all the peoples praise You.

The earth has yielded its increase.

God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us.

Come, let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

O God, Author and Giver of all good things,
plant in our hearts this day the love of Your presence.

Increase in us true faith, courage, and vision,
nourish us with all goodness and grace,

and bring forth in us the fruit of good works.

May this time in worship bring us closer to You,

we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 321 *The Church's One Foundation* (Verse 1)

The church's one foundation

is Jesus Christ her Lord.

She is his new creation

by water and the word.

From heaven he came and sought her

to be his holy bride.

With his own blood he bought her,

and for her life he died.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God will never reject His people.

He is merciful, and abounding in steadfast love,

always willing to hear our prayers

and accept our heartfelt confessions.

So we turn now to God in confidence of forgiveness,

sharing how we have failed to be the people

He calls us to be.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

God of all people, we come before You this day
keenly aware of all the ways we fall short
of Your vision for us and for our life together.
You tell us how good it is to dwell together in unity,
and yet we create division and cultivate disdain.
You command us to care for each other,
but we turn our backs on those crying out for help.
You create and call us into community,
but we want to associate only with our own kind.
Forgive us for thinking we are self-sufficient,
when we are utterly dependent on You
and in need of each other.
Give us Your grace, we pray.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God does not reject His people, but instead is merciful.
Believe the good news, and be at peace.
Through Jesus 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 Revelation 21:1-4, 10-11, 22-27

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

¹⁰And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal.

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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 I Corinthians 15:35-44

³⁵ But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, with all the noises and distractions of this world,
it can be hard to hear Your Word and follow Your path.
Give us now the peace that passes understanding,
and may Your Holy Spirit help us to hear and understand.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

"GOOD HEAVENS"

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 377 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (Verse 1)

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both a-like.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

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 384 *Soon and Very Soon* (Verses 1 and 2)

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.

No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Thought for the Week: *Jeremiah 2:7 : I brought you into a fertile land so you could eat its fruit and produce. But you came and made my land unclean; you made it a hateful place.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Baker and Esworthy Families would like to thank you for your cards, calls, and support during the death of Alice's brother. You all are the best!

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 life everlasting

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our morning worship service on Sunday, September 13. To ensure protection from the current contagion, small sealed packets containing communion elements will be used. More information will be available.

THE AUDIO TAPE OF THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE, usually made available each week the afternoon after worship, will not be available until the day after worship next Sunday, September 6. It should be on the website, or a link will be available, by the morning of Labor Day Monday, September 7.

PERSONS WORSHIPING IN PERSON IN THE SANCTUARY are encouraged to move to their seats as soon as they arrive, and not to spend much time visiting in the narthex, so that we can continue to control the possible spread of the virus.

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.

Kidviv 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
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