

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

**Gracious and life-giving God,
by the gift of Your Holy Spirit
show us now the Word made flesh--
good news of great joy for all!--
so that we might know Your Will
and follow Your path.
Through the Living Word,
Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Dr. Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

*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 *God of the Sparrow* Hymn 22

*THE DOXOLOGY Hymn 708 Verse One

**We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust,
O Lord, from thee.**

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*THE CHARGE (Minister)

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

*Indicates the People Standing

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February Sixteenth the Year of Our Lord

Two Thousand Twenty

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Psalm 30; I Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-27

(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 450 *Be Thou My Vision* (Verse 1)

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Minister: To Jesus we cry: Cleanse us, O Lord!

Have mercy upon us!

**Congregants: By the mercy of Christ
we are made clean.**

Minister: This is the hope which we hold
and which we proclaim.

**Congregants: In the crucifixion and resurrection
of Christ, we are saved!**

Minister: Let us worship our Lord!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION (Unison)

**Almighty and ever-present God,
we come before You in our morning worship
singing Your praise, offering our thanksgiving,
seeking Your forgiveness, listening for Your Word,
and praying for Your guidance in the living of these days.
Lead us to walk in the light of Your love,
and fill us now with Your Holy Spirit.
We pray through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE 15 *All Creatures of Our God and King* (Verses 1-4)

*THE CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

The grace of God has come,
bringing salvation to all,
and teaching us to renounce
what is evil in this world.
Let us confess our sinfulness.

* CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**God of truth and mercy,
in Jesus Christ You have come to us
as light shining in our darkness.
We confess that we do not welcome the light,
or trust in Your grace and goodness.
We have closed our eyes to the glory in our midst,
expecting little and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt and our cynicism,
our hopelessness and our fear,
and give us vision of life with You.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Liturgist)

Hear the promise of our God:
Your salvation has come, Your sins are forgiven.
You are a holy people, redeemed by God.
Be at peace, and live in His grace.

* RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS 435 (Verse 2)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD II Samuel 7:10-16

¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established 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

Day by Day

Martin How

TIME WITH CHILDREN / CHILDREN LEAVE FOR JP'S

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' ⁵²Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

Announcements

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God and to recall the beauty of the love of Obelia Gross Camper for her God, her family, and her students.

*Ushers
Emily Allen, Sarah Godsey, Vee Hayes, Dave Snider*

*Acolytes
Maggie and Lucy Graybill*

*Liturgists
Gayle Wise*

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Congregational Meeting
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Bells
	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Next Sunday		
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:15 pm	Session Meeting

Ushers for February 23, 2020 –

MANY THANKS TO THOSE of you who assisted in the Souper Bowl success. The soups (14) were creative and delicious!! Everyone seemed to enjoy lunch and fellowship as we served our community. (Soups for Seniors and PCCC)

We will have a Congregational meeting today after the morning worship service to elect 3 members from the congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee. This committee will be responsible for nominating Elders to serve beginning in 2021. If you plan to nominate someone be sure and ask them before placing their name in nomination.

THE SESSION WILL MEET next Sunday, February 23, following the morning worship service. If you are interested in joining or have business for the Session, please contact the Minister.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in the morning worship service on Sunday morning, March 1, the first Sunday of Lent.

It's Hunger Buster time! Please pick up a bag before leaving church. Fill it with some of the items listed on the bag. They will be used to fill the pantry at the Presbyterian Center.

A Roller Skating outing is being held on February 24th, at 5:30pm – 8:30pm. The location is Roanoke Valley Skate Center on Brandon Avenue. Pizza and drinks will be served. You can be any age to join us!

Are you missing a black coat and a pair of boots? If so check the coat rack by the front door.

Northminster is proud to announce we have joined the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**. To participate simply go to the 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 a 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!

As the new year begins this is a reminder that we are still collecting used ink cartridges for RAM. They will take any kind including large ones that you may use in your office. There is a container on the table in the vestibule. The Mission Committee thanks you.

ACOLYTES AND LITURGISTS are being scheduled for 2020. If you (or your children) are interested in serving in worship services, please let the Minister know.

The new 2020 sign up sheets for ushering and communion servers are now on the bulletin board outside the church office. PLEASE SIGN UP. Anyone can help with ushering. Communion servers should be elders, active or inactive. Any questions should be directed to Judy Ferrell.

THE MINISTER'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY is offered each Sunday at 10:00, prior to worship, and is open to everyone seeking to learn more of God's teachings. Come join us each week (and bring your Bible!).
NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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

Bobby Brammer	Charlotte Cooley	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle	Barbara Jones
John Kabana	Bob Lancaster	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Gladys Presson
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Jo Ann Threlkeld	Paige Wheeler	Olive Whisler

***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

