

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

*July nineteenth the Year of Our Lord
Two Thousand Twenty
Seventh 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

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Surely the Lord is in this place!

This is the house of God.

In Christ we are no longer strangers.

We are members of the household of God!

Come, let us worship the Lord.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Eternal God, Author of our life,

Beginning and End of our pilgrimage,

guide us this day in worship by Your Spirit,

and fill us with hunger for Your Word,

so that we may not wander from Your path,

nor stumble in all the darkness that surrounds us.

Touch our hearts and our minds and our spirits

so that we may finish our course

and come to our eternal rest in You,

through the sacrifice and grace of Jesus Christ,

in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 267 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* (Verses 1 and 2)

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!

Come, lift your hearts on high:

Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky:

Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend;

to us he'll condescend;

his love shall never end:

Alleluia! Amen!

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

We are held in the strong hands of God.
Despite our brokenness and many failings,
our God protects and preserves us,
and offers us forgiveness for our many sins
as we turn to Him and repent of our evil.
So let us confess our sins, and seek His mercy.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

God our Father, Lord of grace, sustaining Spirit,
we know there is nothing we can do to earn Your love.
We regret that at times we take that love for granted,
we cheapen it with our apathy,
we do not share it with those in need.
Forgive us for not loving You in return,
and for selfishly keeping Your gifts to ourselves.
Help us always to remember the Good News,
and to find our hope and joy in Your presence.
Accept our confession, and help us to see Jesus.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God knows the concerns of our hearts,
the worries of our minds, the weaknesses of our spirits.
He listens, He hears, and He speaks truth and mercy.
The risen Christ is here with us, granting us peace,
healing our brokenness, and setting us free.
In his name, 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 *Psalm 95:1-7*

¹ O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³ For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. ⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

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 Luke 8:26-39

²⁶Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 37 *Let All Things Now Living* (Verse 1)

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving,
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

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 612 *We Praise You, O God* (Verse 2)

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

THE CHARGE (Minister)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Thought for the Week: *For the people big and small For the animals short and tall*
We will care for all these things That our Lord Creator brings.
From the Song, What the Lord Creates
Sung to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING next Sunday, July 26, immediately following the morning worship service. If anyone has business or concerns for the Session, or if you would like to join the church family, please contact the Minister.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated virtually at the morning worship service on August 2. Please be in prayer and spiritual preparation for this time at the Table of our Lord. Note that communion will NOT be taken to the homes of shut-ins, due to the pandemic.

We will be collecting food for the Presbyterian Community Center during the month of July. Bags will be handed out to those who are attending church. If you would like to participate from home, feel free to use your own bags. Bags will be collected at the church and taken to the PCC the first week of August. If you would like to take your bags directly to the PCC, they will accept them Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO GET YOUR ARTICLES to The Link newsletter as soon as possible for the next issue of our official communication publication. Send your submissions to Debbie Newman. Contact the church office for more information.

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 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!

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	Gary Harris	Jake Hayes
Betty Hinkle	Atwood Huff	Barbara Jones
Bob Lancaster	Floyd Moretz	Mary Moretz
Don Myers	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Gladys Presson	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Frances Stevens	Jo Ann Threlkeld	Paige Wheeler
Olive Whisler	Ray Williams	

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
 Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)
 Barbara Simpson – (Mary Simpson's daughter-in-law)

*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

