

## GATHER JOYFULLY

### THE PRELUDE

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Genesis 29:15-28; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

#### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Let us worship God.

#### THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Eternal God,

protector of all who put their trust in You,

without Whom nothing is holy and good,

fill us with Your mercy and Your grace,

so that, with You to rule and guide,

we may use the good things of this life

to serve and honor You.

Be with us now in our worship, here and at home,

and bring us closer to You,

through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### HYMN OF PRAISE 610

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

(Verses One and Four)

O for a thousand tongues to sing

my dear Redeemer's praise,

the glories of my God and King,

the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Master and my God,

assist me to proclaim,

to spread thro' all the earth abroad

the honors of thy name.

#### THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God abounds in forgiveness and steadfast love.

Therefore, we are free to come without fear

to the throne of grace to repent of our sin.

Come, all who would confess, and be made whole.

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Where do we begin with our prayers, O God?

We live in a world of inequity and violence,

a world of greed and selfishness and brutality.

Too often we have not stood for goodness,

too often we have not worked to make the world better.

Too often we perpetuate the things You hate most.

Forgive us for failing to follow You.  
Calm our fears, guide our steps, open our eyes,  
and give us strength to be Your disciples.  
Hear these our silent prayers.

#### THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Even though we walk through the darkest valleys,  
we need fear no evil, even our own,  
for God is with us, and in Jesus He transforms us.  
Friends, believe the good news--in 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 Luke 4:16-24, 28-30

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' <sup>23</sup>He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' <sup>24</sup>And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. <sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

#### 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 Acts 20:7-12

<sup>7</sup> On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. <sup>8</sup>There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. <sup>9</sup>A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. <sup>10</sup>But Paul went down, and bending over him took him in his arms, and said, 'Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.' <sup>11</sup>Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. <sup>12</sup>Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

#### THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

PREACHING AND LISTENING TO SERMONS

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 772 *Live into Hope* (Verses Two and Four)

Live into hope! The blind shall see  
with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear,  
a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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 852 (Verse One) *When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.  
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.  
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.  
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

THE CHARGE (Minister)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

**Thought for the Week: *The Lord God put the man (Adam) in the Garden of Eden to work the soil and take care of the garden. Gen. 2:15***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SESSION WILL BE HELD TODAY July 26th, after the morning worship service. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NORTHMINSTER FAMILY, contact the Minister.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated virtually at the morning worship service next Sunday August 2nd. 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.

Northminster is teaming with Williamson Road Church of the Brethren, Bethany Christian, and Huntington Court Methodist for a virtual VBS program. The dates are Monday Aug 3 -Wednesday Aug 5. The sessions will go from 6-7pm and will be geared towards preschoolers on up through high school. Parents of those involved will receive further information in the near future. Check your email!!

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.

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 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

