

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 1, 2020
All Saints Day

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 34:1-10; Revelation 7:9-17; Matthew 23:1-12

(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 90)

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
before You formed the earth and the universe,
from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
Be with us and fill our spirits this morning with Your love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Come, let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

God of yesterday, tomorrow, and this day,
we gather now to give You our praise and thanksgiving.
You have filled our lives with Your goodness,
and have given us strength and vision to respond to Your call
to carry the love of Christ to the world.
Bless us as we seek to hear Your Word and know Your path,
that we might follow in the steps of saints before,
and blaze the trail for saints still to come,
to Your glory and honor. IN Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 463 *How Firm a Foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

We come in praise, but also knowing our need for forgiveness.
In recognition that our ways have often not been righteous,
and admitting that we have often gone down sinful paths,
we turn to our merciful God to confess and seek His grace.
Let us come to Him in prayer.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord God, too often we do not deal with You honestly.
We say we are open to Your Word and path,
when we are really seeking Your affirmation of our behavior.
We assume our own righteousness,
and quickly condemn others in Your name.
We do not take time to examine our hearts
and truly seek Your Will.
Help us, gracious God, to humble ourselves before You and listen.
Give us courage to hear Your corrective Word,
and to act upon it in ways that reveal our love for Jesus.
Hear now our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News: in Jesus Christ,
we are approved by God and entrusted with His message
that through His grace we are forgiven.
The old life is gone, the new life has begun.
Thanks be to God!

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 Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Hebrews 12:1-2

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, Your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.
We need not stumble in darkness, nor fear the night,
because You send Your Son to be the light of the world.
In this time of reflection, we ask to be illumined by Your wisdom

and to know Your Will through the power of Your living Word.
Through Christ. Amen.

THE SERMON

KEEPING COMPANY

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 525 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

HYMN OF DEDICATION 326 *For All the Saints*

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Thought for the Week: *Isaiah 65:17-25 'Good News from a Holy Mountain' The prophet dreams of Mount Zion being transformed into a 'peace mountain,' a world where humans and animals live in harmony*

TODAY IS ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, when we recognize God's goodness as experienced in the saints He has placed in our midst. We thank God today for the saints who have joined Him in heaven over the past year:

Kim Merritt
Tommy Stultz
Frank Bond
Emily Deaton
George Wingeier
Rod Bittner
Shirley Wynn
Don Myers

Thank you to Susan Lockard who is leading the music for today's service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is being celebrated this morning in our worship service. We will use sanitized packets containing the elements of communion, to protect against the current contagion. Please be in prayer as we approach our Lord's Table.

We are collecting pies again this year for the Rescue Mission. The collection can be of various flavors (pumpkin, apple, berry, cream pies). If you will be donating a pie, please bring it to the church kitchen on Sunday, November 22. The Rescue Mission is always very appreciative of the pies we collect for them. Thank you for helping with this project.

WE ARE AGAIN COLLECTING COATS AND SHOES for local refugee and immigrant families. If you have any of those items you can donate, please bring them to the church narthex by November 16. Children's coats and shoes are especially needed. If you need someone to come pick your donation up, call the church office, the Minister, or Mission Chair Lynn Kirby (588-1782).

IT IS TIME TO FILL OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES! The boxes to be filled can be picked up in the church narthex. This year, you can either fill the box yourself (and either bring it to church or call to have someone pick it up), or you can provide financial support (write a check to the church, and the Mission Committee will fill the box for you). Boxes will be collected through Sunday, November 16.

PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This year, due to issues related to the pandemic, church attendance numbers, and hygienic protocols, we will not purchase live poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary. This is a decision coming from the Session and Dr. Russ Merritt. Rather than purchase live Poinsettias, we will be taking up collection of \$5 from those of you who would like to honor a loved one (in memoriam), listing the name in the Christmas bulletin. The money collected will be donated to the Presbyterian Community Center. We ask that you turn in your donation by December 14th. For those who are not currently attending church services, but would like to honor a loved one, please mail your donation to the church by the required date.

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 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.

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 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 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 / Communion
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 Axelson, 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
Jim Cregger	Michael Hambrick	Jake Hayes
Betty Hinkle	Maryanne Huff	Atwood Huff
Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer	Bob Lancaster
Homer Linton	Floyd Moretz	Mary Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens	Jo Ann Threlkeld

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)
Tim Smith (Karen's husband)

*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