

# NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 15, 2020

## GATHER JOYFULLY

### THE PRELUDE

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Judges 4:1-17; I Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

(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 138)

I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart.

I bow down and give thanks to You

for Your steadfast love and faithfulness.

All the kings of the earth shall praise You,

they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,

for great is Your glory!

Come, let us worship God.

#### THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

When the demands of the world and the stress of these days

weighs heavy upon us and we struggle to continue the journey,

we turn to You, Lord God, for comfort, for strength, for guidance.

We seek to be drawn closer to Jesus, our Lord and Savior,

the one who claims us through his sacrifice and calls us to his service.

Give us hearts now for worship, spirits for praise,

and ears for listening to Your Word and Your Will.

Grant us faith to follow, and to live the promised abundant life.

Through Christ we do pray. Amen.

#### HYMN OF PRAISE 343 *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* (Verses 1 and 4)

Where cross the crowded ways of life,

where sound the cries of race and clan,

above the noise of selfish strife,

we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

The cup of water given for you

still holds the freshness of your grace;

yet long these multitudes to view

the sweet compassion of your face.

### THE CALL TO CONFESSION

The pressure to conform to this world,  
to give in to earthly temptations rather than obey God,  
can easily lead us from His one true path.  
Too often we confess Jesus is Lord with our lips,  
but our words and actions reveal that our loyalty lies elsewhere.  
Yet even as we fail Him, our God is merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and grace.  
With the confidence of knowing we have been called His children,  
let us join together and confess our sinfulness.

### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Everlasting God, You have been our dwelling place  
in all places and all generations.  
Since the creation of the world,  
You have nurtured us with Your love.  
And yet we shamefully acknowledge that we do not always  
share Your love with others.  
We are selective about who we accept into our world--  
only those who look like us and think like us, who seem safe.  
Yet we know that loving You means showing love to all others,  
even as Your great love encompasses all of Your creation.  
Forgive our reluctance, our selfishness, our sins, we pray.  
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.

### THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, God's love has been poured over us  
to heal and nourish our thirsting spirits.  
His grace is plentiful, his mercy deep.  
Through Christ, we have been forgiven and made new.  
Let us go forth to bring peace and hope to a hurting world.  
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 Genesis 32:22-31

<sup>22</sup> The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' <sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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 Matthew 14:13-21

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' <sup>17</sup>They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' <sup>18</sup>And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

*MORE THAN SUPERHEROES*

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 460 *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

Break thou the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as thou didst break the loaves  
beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page  
I seek thee, Lord.  
My spirit pants for thee,  
O living Word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord,  
now unto me,  
as thou didst bless the bread  
by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease,  
all fetters fall.  
And I shall find my peace,  
my all in all.

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 366      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*      (Verse 1)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

THE CHARGE (from the Presbyterian "Book of Common Worship")

Go forth into the world in peace.  
be of good courage, and hold fast to what is good.  
Strengthen the fainthearted, and support the weak.  
Show Christ's love to everyone, and love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THE BENEDICTION

May the blessings of almighty God--Father, Son, and Spirit--  
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

**Thought for the Week:** *Earth refers to the fragile green blue planet, that chunk of stardust in the solar system we now call home. Earth is also the domain that is filled with God's glory, the living presence of God that appeared on Sinai, in the tabernacle, and that now permeates Earth itself (Isaiah: 6.3). God's same glory is revealed in the Word made flesh from the Earth and born on planet Earth (John 1:14)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR DEEPEST CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE is shared with Susie Tallmage, our Church Secretary, following her mother's passing into God's glory earlier in the week. Please hold Susie and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION HAS BEEN CALLED for Sunday, November 22, at the end of the morning worship service, for the purpose of hearing a report from the Green Ridge Task Force, and acting on a recommendation from the Session regarding the disposition (sale) of that property.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated during the morning worship service next Sunday, November 22. That is Christ the King Sunday, and is the final Sunday of this liturgical year. On the following Sunday, November 29, we will begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent.

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. 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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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](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 / Communion
	12:00 pm	Congregation Meeting

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, Gayle Wise