

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 8, 2020

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 78:1-7; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Amos 5:18-24

(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 34)

I will bless the Lord at all times.

God's praises shall continually be in my mouth.

O magnify the Lord with me,

and let us exalt God's name together.

Come, let us worship God.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end,

there is nowhere we can flee from Your Spirit,

no place God-forsaken or unable to be transformed

by Your grace-filled and redemptive power.

We come now before You, gathered in worship and praise,

as a sign of our desire to follow where Your call,

to hear Your Word of life, and to share Your love with others.

Bless us with Your presence in this time and place,

and bring us closer to our Lord Jesus Christ,

in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 320 *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

The church of Christ in every age,

beset by change but Spirit-led,

must claim and test its heritage

and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,

the victims of injustice cry

for shelter and for bread to eat,

and never live before they die.

Then let the servant church arise,

a caring church that longs to be

a partner in Christ's sacrifice,

and clothed in Christ's humanity.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God loves us so much that we are called children of God.
When we see God face to face, He will see Jesus standing for us.
In anticipation of that day, we come before God and confess our sin,
seeking to repent and be reshaped into the image of the One
whom we follow, obey, worship and adore. So let us pray.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord of every tribe and nation, of every party and politic,
on this day we remember that in You we all find our meaning and purpose.
Yet too often we seek to give our own definitions to our lives.
Both subtly and overtly, we seek to take Your place, to write our own rules,
to manage our world and control our own destinies, to make ourselves into gods.
Forgive us for thinking and acting as if our powers and needs are ultimate.
Hear our plea to find our hope, our life, our salvation in You alone.
Accept our repentance and reshape us in ways that glorify You.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The psalmist writes: "Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Happy are those who take refuge in the Lord."
Friends, believe the Good News! Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
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 Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸ The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

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 25:31-46

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you

gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?”⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.”⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Your love is a mystery, and an amazing gift of grace to us, O God.
Startle us again with that love, and open our hearts and our minds
to Your invitation to find the meaning of our lives
by loving as You love, even the least of these, Your family.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

TWO LOVES

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 708 *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

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

May we thy bounties thus
as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us,
to thee our firstfruits give.

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 757 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Today we are all called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captives free, make plow-share out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

THE CHARGE (from I Thessalonians)

May the God of peace make you holy,
and may your spirit and mind and body
be kept sound and blameless at the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE BENEDICTION

May the provision and protection of God our Father,
the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the nurture and transformative power of the Holy Spirit
be with you and yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

Thought for the Week: *Psalm 33:1-9 'The Word of the Lord in creation' The Psalmist summons us all, Earth and her inhabitants, to praise God with song and musical instruments because of what God's word has done. The Word is the means by which God created the sky, land and all the seas.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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](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 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