

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 11, 2020
GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 32:1-14; Isaiah 25:1-9; Philippians 4:1-9

(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 19:7-10)

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.
The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.
The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.
The ordinances of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.
Come, let us worship the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Merciful and holy God,
we gather together to give You praise and thanksgiving,
and to hear Your Word for the living of our lives.
Draw us away from the easy roads that lead to destruction,
and guide us into paths that lead to life abundant,
so that seeking Your truth and obeying Your will,
we may know the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ,
in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me* (Verse 1)

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God's way is indeed perfect. And yet in our sin, we fall far short.
Nonetheless, He is gracious, merciful, and abounding in steadfast love.
Confident that God's promises are sure and His character unchanging,
we come to Him to confess our sins in order that we might be forgiven,
and freed for God's good future. Let us pray to God.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord, we hear You call us to follow where You lead,
but we know well how far we have fallen off Your path.
We have done little to repair the broken bridges of our world.
Too many of Your children do not have a place at Your Table,

and so many more have only crumbs to eat.
"Come and follow," You say, but we are slow to respond.
In Your relentless mercy, O God, forgive us,
free us from fear and make us conduits of Your reconciling love.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear these wonderful words of truth! God refuses to give up on us.
God restores us. God sent His only Son to save us.
There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God
which is ours though Jesus Christ our Lord.
Believe the Good News: through Jesus 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 Psalm 107:1-9

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever. ² Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; ⁵ hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. ⁶ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; ⁷ he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. ⁸ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. ⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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 4:18-22

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Your Law, O God, is perfect, and Your Word is clear.
You do not leave us in the dark to guess Your Will,
but instead send the light that no darkness can overcome
to reveal Your Way and to illumine our understanding.
Send Your Holy Spirit now so that we will have ears to hear
and a heart to understand what You are saying to Your people.
Through Christ the living Word we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

RISE AND FOLLOW

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 626 *As the Deer*

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

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 721 *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* (Verse 1)

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones; you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.
By your side I will seek other seas.

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Thought for the Week: *Genesis 1:26* Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the tame animals, over all the earth, and over all the small crawling animals on the earth."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR DEEPEST CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SUPPORT are shared with the respective families of Dr. Don Myers and Shirley Wynn, who joined the Church Triumphant this past week. We thank Christ for His grace demonstrated through their lives, and for His loving embrace, welcoming them home. To God be the glory!

OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND JOYFUL PRAYERS are shared with Daniel Kirby and Lauren King, who were joined (along with their wonderful children) in Christian wedlock yesterday Saturday October 3, 2020. May God shed His richest blessings upon their union!.

Mission Committee will meet Wednesday October 14th, at 4:00 pm.

After much thought and deliberation, the decision has been made to cancel our annual Apple Butter Boiling for this year. The risks and logistics of working around the pandemic were deemed too problematic. We are already looking forward to renewing this tradition next year.

The Roanoke Valley CROP Walk will be held **today Sunday Oct 11**. Due to the pandemic, this year's event will take place virtually. In the past, the youth from Northminster have participated. If any of you would like to make a donation, a check can be written to Northminster. Make sure to note "CROP Walk" on your check. Thank you!

We will wait to collect Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on Sunday, November 24th.

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
Wednesday	4:00 pm	Mission Committee Meeting
Next Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250
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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