

# NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 4, 2020  
GATHER JOYFULLY

## THE PRELUDE

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46

(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 17)

We call upon You, for we know You will answer us, O God.

Incline Your ear to us, hear our words as we gather in worship and praise.

Wondrously show us Your steadfast love, our Savior.

For we come now into Your presence to hear Your Word for life,

to be fed at Your Table of grace, and to be filled with Your Spirit.

So come, let us worship the Lord!

### THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

O God, almighty and eternal, gracious and merciful,

You have summoned the day to dawn, and Your people to worship.

You have taught the sun to awaken the earth,

and You have shown us the path to salvation and new life.

Shed Your holy light this day upon this world,

and may it shine now in this gathering and on this people,

that we might behold Your glory and praise Your name.

We pray through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### HYMN OF PRAISE 394 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* (Verses 1 and 2)

Christ is made the sure foundation,

Christ the head and cornerstone,

chosen of the Lord and precious,

binding all the church in one;

holy Zion's help forever,

and our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call you,

come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;

come, with all your loving-kindness;

hear your people as we pray,

and your fullest benediction

shed within these walls today.

## THE CALL TO CONFESSION

As we are called to confession, we also hear again Good News.  
The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.  
The Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all creation.  
Confident of this promise and assurance, we come before God  
to confess our sins, to repent, and to seek God's forgiveness.

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord of goodness and abundance, Giver of every gift and resource,  
we confess that when we see the overwhelming needs of this world,  
too often we turn away, we become jaded and apathetic.  
We seek our own security and we retreat from the chaos around us.  
Forgive us for failing to heed the command of Jesus to care for the hurting.  
Forgive us for not sharing more of what has come from Your hands.  
We know that You are present in seemingly desolate places,  
meeting us in our fears and doubts, using even our failings.  
IN Your abounding and steadfast love, grant us Your mercy,  
and make of us merciful, gracious, and faithful people.  
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.

## THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Psalm 145, we read: "The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all that is His. God is near to all who call on Him."  
Friends, having called on the Lord with our truthful confessions,  
we can trust that in His mercy He is with us now.  
Believe the Good News! In and 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 Colossians 1:15-20

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 10:11-18

<sup>11</sup> 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I

must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

#### THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord, Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.  
Give us grace now to receive Your truth in faith and love,  
and strength to follow the Way that You set before us.  
Through Christ the Living Word we pray. Amen.

#### THE SERMON

*FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD*

Dr. Merritt

#### HYMN OF COMMITMENT 523 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* (Verse 1)

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat; come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice, so when you call your family, Lord, we follow and rejoice.

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat; come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

#### 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 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us* (Verses 1 and 3)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us;  
for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us: we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us: we are yours.

You have promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be;  
you have mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.

### THE CHARGE

Go forth, and grow in the grace and knowledge and discipleship  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
May the God of peace make you holy,  
and may your spirit be kept safe and sound.  
The One Who made you and calls you will do this.

### THE BENEDICTION

Hear God's blessing on you this day:  
As you go from this place, may the peace of our Savior,  
the grace of the ever-present God,  
and the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit be with you,  
redeeming you, strengthening you for the journey,  
and transforming you into His likeness, now and always.  
And let all God's people say...**AMEN**. For it is Good News!

### THE POSTLUDE

**Thought for the Week:** *Let the fields and everything in them rejoice. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy. Psalm 96:12*  
*Listen attentively for Gods wonders.*

## 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.

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 will be joined (along with their wonderful children) in Christian wedlock this coming Saturday. May God shed His richest blessings upon their union!

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE will not be available on tape through the church's website until next Sunday, October 11.

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 on 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 Mission Committee would like to thank the people who have contributed food and money to the Blessing Box. It has been very successful and we feel it is filling a need in the neighborhood. Since it is an ongoing project, we will still accept donations and your prayers. Thank you again.

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 / 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 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	Jake Hayes	Betty Hinkle
Atwood Huff	Barbara Jones	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)

\*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