

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 13, 2020
GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

(Congregants are encouraged to read and reflect upon these passages as they prepare for worship.)

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Whether we live or die, we belong to God.

Christ is the Lord of all.

So let us rejoice, for in all things God is King!

There is joy in the presence of our Lord.

Come, let us worship together.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Almighty and merciful God,

You call Your Church to give witness

that in Christ we are reconciled to You.

Help us to proclaim the good news of Your love,

so that all who hear may turn to You.

Be with us in our celebration of worship,

and bring us closer to You.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 52 *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land* (Verses 1 and 3)

When Israel was in Egypt's land,

let my people go;

oppressed so hard they could not stand,

let my people go!

Refrain:

Go down, Moses,

way down in Egypt's land;

tell old Pharaoh:

let my people go!

"No more shall they in bondage toil:

let my people go!

Let them come out with Egypt's spoil:

let my people go!"

Refrain:

Go down, Moses,

way down in Egypt's land;

tell old Pharaoh:
let my people go!

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God calls us to do what is right,
to care for one another, to follow His path.
But we fall short of who we are called to be.
Thankfully, God is abounding in mercy and steadfast love,
and seeks to forgive those who repent of their sins.
So let us humbly and honestly confess our sinfulness to God.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord of wind and wave, of creation and creatures,
Your power is at work everywhere, stilling storms,
building bridges, offering peace,
and lifting us from the depths of our greatest fears.
But too often we focus on that which threatens us
rather than the One Who saves us.
We act out of a sense of selfishness and scarcity
instead of celebrating the goodness and plenty of Your gifts.
Forgive our failings, our mistakes, our straying from Your way,
and in Your great mercy forgive us and re-form us
into the people You have made us to be and call us to be.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.
Trusting in this sure promise, we rejoice
that God hears our confession and forgives us.
Friends, believe the good news: in Christ you are a new creation,
the old has passed away, and behold, the new life has begun.

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 149:1-6

¹ Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. ² Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. ³ Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. ⁴ For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. ⁵ Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. ⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Exodus 3:1-15

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame

of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' ⁵Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' ¹¹But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹²He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

¹³ But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' ¹⁴God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you."' ¹⁵God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

We are eager, Lord, to hear Your good news.
We are eager, Lord, to know the path that You give us to follow.
We are eager, Lord, to find the strength and vision to follow where You lead.
We are eager to listen for Your Word, and to be transformed.
Open us now to Your Holy Spirit,
so that we might hear, believe, and be sent forth.
Through Christ the Living Word we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

A GOOD PLACE TO START

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 69 *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* (Verse 1)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

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 550

Give Praise to the Lord

(Verses 1 and 3)

Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song;
amid all the saints God's praises prolong;
a song to your Maker and Ruler now raise,
all children of Zion: rejoice and give praise.

In glory exult, all saints of the Lord;
with song in the night high praises accord;
go forth in God's service and strong in God's might
to conquer all evil and stand for the right.

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Thought for the Week: *You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. Psalm 65:9-10*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

People are using our Blessing Box! If you would like to donate food or other non-perishable items for the Blessing Box, please leave them with Susie.

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 HAS RESUMED WORSHIP in the sanctuary. The Session has approved a number of guidelines and practices for in-person worship, due to the health concerns of us all. Please be aware of those new practices, and join us in taking steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus. If you need a copy of the guidelines, or have thoughts you'd like to share, please contact the Minister.

Kidviv is zooming Thursday evenings with music from Melissa, devotion from Lauren, and prayers with Russ. Last week was on prayer and this week is on faith.

Caitlin is zooming with older youth and working on projects.

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
Don Myers	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Frances Stevens
Jo Ann Threlkeld	Shirley Wynn	

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