

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 20, 2020
GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 16:2-15; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

(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 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless God's holy name.
Do not forget all God's benefits.
He forgives all your iniquity, and heals your diseases.
He redeems your life from the pit,
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.
So come, let us worship the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

HYMN OF PRAISE 774 *There Is Now a New Creation* (Verse 1 and 4)

There is now a new creation throughout the grace of Jesus Christ, peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.

Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast; Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and the least.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor does he repay us according to our iniquities.
Rather, the Lord is merciful and gracious.
So trusting in this promise, we now boldly confess our sin.
Let us pray to God our Redeemer.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord Christ, you instruct us to forgive seventy time seven,
to remember God's grace toward us
and to extend it to one another.
Yet we judge others, and do not share our compassion.
We quarrel and sow division and brokenness
instead of cultivating relationships and demonstrating unity.
We attempt to limit the love you command us to share.
Forgive our hard-heartedness, and expand our concern.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Psalm 103)

As the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love for us all.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far the Lord removes our transgressions from us.
Friends, believe the good news: through 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 105:1-7

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. ² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. ³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. ⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered, ⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones. ⁷ He is the Lord our God; his judgements are in all the earth.

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 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, we come to this time overwhelmed with distractions.
We are consumed by busyness, occupied by worries,
fearful of this world, and not sure what to do next.
And yet we are here, seeking to hear a Word from you,
wanting a sense of Your presence,
seeking Your wisdom for these days and these circumstances.
Send Your Spirit to open our ears and our minds and our hearts,
and help us encounter Your Living Word and to follow where he leads,
for it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

MISSION AT OUR DOORS

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 297 In Christ Called to Baptize (Verses 1 and 3)
In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death, then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.

In Christ called to witness, by grace we will preach the life-giving gospel; God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living give proof to our praise in costly compassion reflecting Christ's ways.

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 295 *Go to the World!* (Verses 1 and 4)

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth, baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you till the age shall end, when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Thought for the Week: *"Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap what grows of itself in your harvest, or gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land. Leviticus 25:2-5*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS MONTHLY MEETING next Sunday following the worship service. If you are interested in joining, or if you have business for the Session, please contact the Minister.

Emery St.Cyr would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and love.

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
Next Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:000 pm	Session 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 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