

# NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 27, 2020  
GATHER JOYFULLY

## THE PRELUDE

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 17:1-7; Matthew 21:23-32

(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 105)

Give thanks to the Lord, and call on His name.  
Make known His deeds among all the peoples.  
Sing to the Lord, sing His praises.  
Tell of all His wonderful works.  
Come, let us worship God.

### THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Almighty God, we pray this morning for Your blessing  
on this gathering in this time and place.  
Here may the faithful find assurance of salvation.  
Here may the careless and spiritually apathetic be awakened.  
Here may those in doubt and darkness find faith,  
and here may those who are anxious and distressed be comforted.  
Here this morning may the tempted find strength,  
and here may those seeking Your path be given eyes that see.  
Here may the weary find rest and the broken find healing,  
here may Your disciples find Jesus Christ.  
For it in his name we pray. Amen.

### HYMN OF PRAISE 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (Verse 3 & 4)

Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

#### THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God offers us grace, even though we do not deserve His gift.  
God provides for us, even though we neglect to be thankful.  
God's generosity knows no bounds, and yet we begrudge His goodness.  
Recognizing the many ways we fail in our discipleship,  
we come now to a time of confession and repentance,  
grateful that God's loving kindness overcomes all our sins.  
Let us seek God's forgiveness, in prayer.

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord God, Your relentless compassion defies understanding.  
We sin, and sin, and sin again, defying Your love and going our own way.  
But You still come to us, provide for us, and never abandon us.  
Yet rather than rejoicing in Your grace, we grumble and complain.  
We are envious of Your love for others, wanting You all to ourselves.  
Instead of gratitude for Your mercy, we demand You give us even more.  
Forgive us, O God, for judging others, for resenting Your generosity,  
for wanting everything to always go our selfish way.  
Enter our hearts and transform us, giving us new life and vision.  
Hear these our silent prayers.

#### THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear God's own promise in His Word:  
The Lord is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.  
In Jesus Christ, he came not for the righteous, but to save sinners.  
His Good News is that we are indeed forgiven, made clean,  
and even now we are new creations in Christ. Praise 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 Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 Psalm 111

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. <sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. <sup>3</sup> Full of honour and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures for ever. <sup>4</sup> He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. <sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. <sup>8</sup> They are established for ever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. <sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for ever. Holy and awesome is his name. <sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practise it have a good understanding. His praise endures for ever.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom and understanding, patience and truth,  
these days seem to all run together, with no clarity or direction.  
Our ability to hear and to understand Your voice  
through all the world's noise grows difficult.  
But we know that You speak to us through Your Holy Spirit.  
So open the doors to our hearts and minds and spirits  
that we might hear the Word that You have for us this day.  
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

*DOORS OPEN FOR PRAISE*

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 652 *A Grateful Heart* (Verse 1 & 2)

A grateful heart is what I bring,  
a song of praise, my offering.  
Among the saints I lift my voice  
in you, O God, I will rejoice.

Your name is known in all the lands.  
You feed the poor with gentle hands.  
Your word is true, your works are just;  
in you, O God the faithful trust.

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 761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* (Verse 1 & 2)

Called as partners in Christ's service,  
called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment  
fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring  
to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,  
Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering,  
reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer,  
all God's people, young and old,  
blending human skills together  
gracious gifts from God unfold.

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

**Thought for the Week:** *Think of a world without any flowers, Think of a world without any tree  
Think of a sky without sunshine, think of the air without any breeze  
We thank you Lord, for flowers and trees and sunshine  
From the song, "God Who Made the Earth"*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our worship service next Sunday morning (World Communion Sunday). We will again make use of hygienic and sanitized prepared packets containing the elements of bread and juice. Please be in prayer as we come to the Lord's Table.

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

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.

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
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Next Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion

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
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