

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 6, 2020
GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Matthew 18:15-20

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

Almighty and ever-present God,
You created the heavens and the earth,
and humankind in Your own image.
Teach us to discern Your hand in our world,
in all Your works, and in our lives,
that we might serve You in joy,
and with reverence and thanksgiving.
Be with us now as we come before You
in worship, praise, and adoration,
and bring us closer to You.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 54 *Make a Joyful Noise to God!* (Verse 1-2)

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:
walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.
Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies, and rejoice!

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Sisters and brothers, we have not always walked with God
or trusted the Lord without wavering.
Our love of God and neighbor lacks zeal
and at times we have done that which we hate.
We need God's grace, His mercy, and His transforming power.
So let us confess our sins and seek to be made new.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord our God, Creator and Redeemer and Sustainer,
You instruct us to hate what is evil and hold fast to what is good.
You call us to love genuinely, ardently, fully.
Yet we do not stand with those who suffer,
nor do we stay true to the path where Jesus leads.
We fall easily into judgment, anger, and revenge.
In Your abundant mercy, put a new and right spirit within us.
Forgive us, Lord, and set us free to follow You, even to the Cross.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We hold firm to the belief that God came to us in the person of Jesus,
to forgive sinners like us, and to give us new life.
We rejoice in the truth that we are forgiven,
and have been made free to live a new life 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 Psalm 66:1-12

¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; ² sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise. ³ Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.⁴ All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.' *Selah* ⁵ Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals. ⁶ He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him,⁷ who rules by his might for ever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let the rebellious not exalt themselves. *Selah* ⁸ Bless our God, O peoples, et the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹ who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip. ¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. ¹¹ You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; ¹² you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

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 Jeremiah 29:1-14

¹These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ²This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. ³The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiyah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: ⁴Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant

gardens and eat what they produce. 6Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord. 10For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Our God, You call us by name,
seeking to speak to us, to instruct us, to send us.
Help us in those moments to listen for Your voice,
and grant us now a holy encounter, that transforms us,
and helps us to grow in discipleship.
Through Christ, the Living Word, we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

LIVING IN THE MIDST OF EXILE

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 494

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

(Verse 1-2)

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
thou fount of life, thou light of all,
from the best bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
thou savest those that on thee call;
to them that seek thee thou art good,
to them that find thee, all in all.

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 538

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread, I am wine, I am bread: give to all who thirst and hunger.

Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt, strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Thought for the Week: *“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, Isaiah 55:10*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our morning worship service next Sunday, September 13. To ensure protection from the current contagion, small sealed packets containing communion elements will be used.

THE AUDIO TAPE OF THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE, usually made available each week the afternoon after worship, will not be available until tomorrow. It should be on the website, or a link will be available, by the morning of Labor Day Monday, September 7.

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 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 / 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
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