

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

**APRIL 18, 2021**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**GATHER JOYFULLY**

**THE PRELUDE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION**

Acts 3:12-19; I John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

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

**BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**HYMN OF PRAISE 236**     *The Strife is O'er*     (Verse 1 and 2)

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;

the victory of life is won;

the song of triumph has begun.

Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,

but Christ their legions hath dispersed:

let shouts of holy joy outburst.

Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved, we are now the children of God.

His Son, Jesus Christ, is our brother.

When Christ is revealed, we will be like him.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain.

Blessing and honor and glory to God!

Let us come to Him now in worship.

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION**

Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer and Sustainer,

through Your only Son You overcame death

and opened to us the gates of everlasting life.

Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection  
may, through the renewing power of Your Holy Spirit,  
arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness.  
Be with us in our worship, and open us to Your Word and Will.  
Through Christ we make our prayers. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN 231 *Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers* (Verse 1)

Christ has risen while earth slumbers; Christ has risen where hope died,  
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.  
Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;  
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!

## GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 24

<sup>1</sup> The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; <sup>2</sup> for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. <sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. <sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. <sup>6</sup> Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah

THE PRAYER'S 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 Mark 8:27-38

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' <sup>29</sup> He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' <sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to

them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

#### THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to Your Word for us,  
may Your Holy Spirit rest upon us.  
As we gather at the open door of an empty tomb,  
may that life and the light shine upon us.  
Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking,  
in our doing, in our believing, in our living.  
Through the risen Lord we pray. Amen.

#### THE SERMON

*WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?*

Russ Merritt

#### HYMN OF COMMITMENT 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

#### 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 718 *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* (Verse 1 and 2)

Take up your cross, the Savior said,  
if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart,  
and humbly follow after me.  
Take up your cross; let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up  
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

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**Thought for the Week:** *He only is the Maker of all things near and far; He paints the wayside flower, He lights evening star; The winds and waves obey Him, By Him the birds are fed; Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread. All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love. Hymn: We Plow the Fields (verse 2)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NEW ONLINE "ZOOM" BIBLE STUDY begins Wednesday evening, April 14, at 7:00. If interested in participating, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Also, there will be a training session for persons needing help with Zoom will in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service this morning.

THE DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY IS MAKING PLANS for children and their families to return to church. Parents are invited to share their thoughts and ideas with Frankie Bielawski, Ministry liaison.

As warm weather approaches and you start getting out your warm weather clothes, please remember that we are collecting coats and cold-weather shoes that you may be thinking about replacing for Blue Ridge Literacy. Thank you for your support of this project.

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.

### Calendar

Today	11:00 am	Morning Worship
Next Sunday	11:00 am	Morning Worship

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 Axelson, 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**

Jessee Amos	Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer
Charlotte Cooley	Jim Cregger	Michael Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer
Bob Lancaster	Homer Linton	Susan Lockard
Floyd Moretz	Mary Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Frances Stevens	Jo Ann Threlkeld	Ray Williams

**Friends and Family**

Joaquin Bielawski  
Woody Huff (Mary Anne Huffs son)  
Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)  
Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)  
Berkley Persinger (Elise Lanford's cousin)  
Tim Smith (Karen's husband)

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Kathy Baker, Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Judy Ferrell, Tom Hale, Vee Hayes, Daniel Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Jeremy Newman, Gayle Wise