

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

*August 15, 2021*  
*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

**GATHER JOYFULLY**

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

I Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 403     *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* (Verses 1 and 2)

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Come to receive God's strength,  
you who are weary.

**Congregants: Come to receive God's peace,  
you who are anxious.**

Minister: Come to receive God's assurance,  
you who are in doubt.

**Congregants: Come to receive God's acceptance,  
you who are lonely.**

Minister: Come to receive God's grace,  
you who have strayed from His path.

**Congregants: Come to sing His praises,  
come to receive His forgiveness.**

Minister: Come to hear His Word,  
come, let us worship God!

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty and gracious God,  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
we come before Your majesty in awe and wonder.  
Be with us now in our worship,  
and draw us closer to the path You have for us.  
We know well that we are not worthy,  
that our self-centered and sinful nature  
too often limits our ability to listen and to follow.**

**But You have broken the tyranny of sin,  
and sent the Spirit of Your Son into our hearts.**

**Forgive our wayward ways, we pray,  
and make our time together a true blessing.**

**Hear these our silent prayers.**

(Worshippers should spend time in silent and private prayer.)

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE HYMN 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 Ephesians 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family\* in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.**

Voluntary *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
there are sweet expressions on each face,

and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love.  
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,  
when we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive  
till you know him in his fullness and believe;  
you're the one to profit when you say,  
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love.  
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,  
when we shall leave this place.

#### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Genesis 28:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. <sup>11</sup>He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; <sup>14</sup>and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup>Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

#### THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

*SURELY THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE*

Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 839 *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* (Verses 1 and 3)

\*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 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (Verses 2 and 3)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: I have given all the green plants as food for every wild animal, every bird of the air, and every small crawling animal. Genesis 1:30**

**EARTH CARE: Stop chewing gum. Or at least make sure it's all natural. Believe it or not, most gums are now made with plastic. (chew on that for a minute...and then don't)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Northminster is partnering with our VBS churches for as Back to School Outreach on August 21 at Huntington Court UMC (1-3 p.m.) Volunteers are needed for the actual event and also for packing the school supplies (August 14). if you would like to donate school supplies, please bring them to church or contact Frankie Bielawski (562-0613). Needed supplies are: wide-ruled notebook paper, #2 pencils (12 pack), 12 count colored pencils, glue sticks, highlighter, 24 count crayons, 8 count washable markers, pencil sharpener, folder with pockets (preferably vinyl or plastic), and marbled or spiraled composition books. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks to Northminster for BTS Outreach.

Circle 2 wants to welcome all the ladies of the church to join our circle. What is circle? It's a group of ladies that meet once a month. We typically meet at a restaurant or at a members home. We have a quick 10 minute lesson (we are all learning so no previous Bible knowledge is required!) We catch up with each other and socialize. We choose a group or event monthly that we support by putting a small donation in an envelope that we pass around. Any donation amount works. We support the Presbyterian center, adopted angel tree children at Christmas and have given to many other local groups. We really do have a great time and you learn so much about your church members and their families. The meeting last 2 hours or less. Our first meeting will be Tuesday Sept 7 at 6:30 at Shakers. Any questions please email me [Qisalem@hotmail.com](mailto:Qisalem@hotmail.com) or just show up. We would love to have you.

If you have any books that you have read and don't know what to do with them, please bring them to the church for the "Little Free Library". We are need of children's books- any age and can use current adult books. Thanks, again for your support of this project.

JUST A REMINDER: there are boxes in the narthex to recycle your bulletins.

ONLINE "ZOOM" BIBLE STUDY is being held on Wednesday evenings, at 7:00. If someone wants to join the zoom Bible study please contact the church secretary.

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	10:30 am	Morning Worship
Next Sunday	10:30 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
Reba Kling	Bob Lancaster	Homer Linton
Susan Lockard	Floyd Moretz	Mary Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Jo Ann Threlkeld	Ray Williams

**Friends and Family**

Joaquin Bielawski  
Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)  
Berkley Persinger (Elise Lanford's cousin)

**\*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