

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

*August 22, 2021*  
*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**GATHER JOYFULLY**

**THE PRELUDE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION**

Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20

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

**BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 663 *Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun*

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Congregants: Happy and blessed are those who trust in God.**

Minister: We have been raised with Christ.

**Congregants: Nothing can separate us from God's love.**

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty God, You have taught us  
that all our deeds without love are worth nothing.**

**Send Your Holy Spirit to our worship,  
pour into our hearts the excellent gift of love,  
and give us the vision of peace and joy.**

**We know well that we are flawed vessels of Your gifts,  
broken and sinful and choosing our own way.**

**Forgive us and heal us, and in this time together  
may we be drawn closer to Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**Hear these our silent prayers.**

(The congregation will pray silently.)

\*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 Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

<sup>14</sup> 'Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' <sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 6:56-69

<sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. <sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, 'For this

reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’  
<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So  
Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord,  
to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and  
know that you are the Holy One of God.’

## THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

*CHOICES*

Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 450 *Be Thou My Vision* (Verses 1 and 2)

\*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.**

## CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Dedication

## GO FAITHFULLY

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 516 *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*  
(Verses 1 and 2)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The skies and the earth belong to you. You made the world and everything in it. Psalm 89:11**

**EARTH CARE: Stop using plastic straws. If you do need a straw, insist on a paper one or carry your own glass or metal straw that can be washed and used again and again.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME BACK!!!** Next Sunday, August 29, the last Sunday of summer, we will have a HUGE fellowship gathering for the entire church family and all your friends whom you bring! There will be a very special worship service, with great music and more, followed by a Northminster picnic on the grounds under a BIG tent, with great food on the grill, fun games for all ages, and more music and wonderful times together. You are an important piece to the big puzzle, so make plans to join us--and wear your new Northminster T-shirt proudly!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated school supplies and/or money to our community "Back to School" event. We were able to pack 200+ packs of supplies for area children. Thank you as well to those who volunteered on the 14th to pack the bags and to those who showed up for the actual event on the 21st.

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.

#### 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	Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey
Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer	Warren Campbell
Charlotte Cooley	Jim Cregger	Michael Hambrick
Gary Harris	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