

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FEBRUARY 28, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Genesis 17:1-7; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25

(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 147)

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
for He is gracious, and praising Him is fitting.
God heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
Great is our Lord, His grace is beyond measure.
Come, let us worship God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

God of our coming in together and our going forth,
God Who fills us and God Who sends us,
God of our worship here and our service beyond,
be with us now as we share our praise and prayers,
as we give one another love and support,
as we seek to understand and follow Your Word
and grow as Your disciples and Your community of faith,
for we pray through Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 201

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

A prophet-woman broke a jar,
by Love's divine appointing.
With rare perfume she filled the room,
presiding and anointing.
A prophet-woman broke a jar,
the sneers of scorn defying.
With rare perfume she filled the room,
preparing Christ for dying.

Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth,
for centuries were hidden,
unsung, unwritten, and unheard,
derided and forbidden,
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,
on free and slave descending,

can tumble our dividing walls,
our shame and sadness mending.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Our God does not grow weary of showing mercy.
Rather, He comes to us to renew our strength,
to forgive our sins, and to set us on His path.
So let us share our confession of sins,
and find therein renewed life in God.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

O God, our Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer,
we confess our feelings of alienation and separation from You
in these days of pandemic and social turmoil.
We fear Your absence and live in despair,
when in fact You are most present to us.
Restore in us a deep awareness of Your comfort and care.
Renew our strength that we might mount up with wings as eagles,
and go forth filled with Your grace.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The God Who hung the stars and the sun and the moon
has come into each of us with mercy and love.
Hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ:
you and I are forgiven, and empowered by God's Spirit
to run and not be weary, to go forth and never falter.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS HYMN 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. ³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. ⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

THE PRAYER 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 14:1-9

¹It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²for they said, 'Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.'³ While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way?' ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of light and life, of truth and understanding,
open our hearts by the power of Your Holy Spirit
so that the words of scripture may come alive
and become Your holy Word for us to hear,
to empower our lives in this time and place.
Through the Living Word we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

WE WERE THERE: EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 471 *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

(Verse is repeated several times)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O, Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to 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 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

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Thought for the Week: Psalm 121:2 -*My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE THANK PAM CLATERBAUGH for her wonderful leadership in worship and sermon last Sunday. Her ministry in our midst is appreciated!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday, March 7, during the morning worship service. Please be in prayerful preparation as we come to the Lord's Table.

We have begun our Hunger Buster campaign and will be taking all the bags to the Presbyterian Community Center tomorrow Monday, March 1st. We appreciate your support with this Church mission.

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	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 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
Charlotte Cooley
Jake Hayes
Dennis Kincer
Susan Lockard
Ann Pace
Sandy Smith
Ray Williams

Frances Bowling
Jim Cregger
Maryanne Huff
Bob Lancaster
Floyd Moretz
Mac Pace
Frances Stevens

Bobby Brammer
Michael Hambrick
Barbara Jones
Homer Linton
Mary Moretz
Buddy Smith
Jo Ann Threlkeld

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)
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