

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; Mark 1:29-39

(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 111)

Praise the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart,
in the company of His congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord.

Full of honor and majesty is God's work.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
so come, let us worship our God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

O God, You have made the heavens and the earth,
You have surrounded us with beauty and goodness,
You have come to us in Jesus to reveal Your love and grace,
and You are with us now as we bring You praise and worship.
Let our hearts be open before You in these moments,
our minds prepared, and our lives made ready to serve.
For we pray through Christ our Savior. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 401 *Here in This Place (Gather Us In)* Verse 1

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreaming brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

The Holy Spirit comes into our midst with authority,
exposing the sin of our lives and our world.

But that Spirit of Jesus also assures us
that forgiveness and restoration to new life
is real and present with us, through him.

So let us confess our sinfulness before God.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, we confess our complicity
in the sinfulness of this world,
with its brokenness, its divisions, its rebellion.
We have at times been silent when others are hurt,
or we have consciously or unconsciously done the hurting.
Forgive us for being part of this world's sin,
and restore us to a life of righteousness, justice, and love.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear good news!
The grace of God is certain for each and for all.
Be restored to right standing with God and one another.
Know that we are empowered by God's Spirit
to create loving communities and relationships in our world.
Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS HYMN 436 *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* (Verse 3)

How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ³'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

THE PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of Your Holy Spirit,
so that Your Word will illumine our paths. Amen.

THE SERMON

SALT AND LIGHT

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 459 *O Word of God, Incarnate* Verse 1

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.

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 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (Christ, Be Our Light) Verses 1, 3, 4

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

THE CHARGE (from Deuteronomy 18:15)

Have courage; hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
support the weak; help the suffering.
And seek the power of God's Spirit
to work for peace and healing
in all that we do.

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

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Thought for the Week: Genesis 2:15

The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORSHIP MINISTRY OF THE SESSION will meet next Monday morning, February 15, at 10:00. If you are interested in working with this Ministry, please contact the Minister.

We will begin our Hunger Buster campaign on Sunday, February 7th. You can pick up your Hunger Buster bags in the narthex. We will be taking them to the Presbyterian Community Center on February 29th. 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

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	Maryanne Huff	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
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