

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 10, 2021

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Genesis 1:1-5; Acts 19:1-7

(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 95)

Come, let us sing to the Lord,

let us make a joyful noise

to the Rock of our salvation!

Come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

For He is our God, and we are His people.

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

O God, we gather together in Your presence with expectation,
hungry to be with You, eager to hear Your Word.

Open our eyes and ears to where Your Spirit leads us.

May the seeds of Your Word fall on fertile soil.

May those seeds take root in our hearts and lives

and produce an abundant harvest of spiritual growth and good works.

We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 156

Sing of God Made Manifest (Verses 1 and 2)

Sing of God made manifest
in a child robust and blest,
to whose home in Bethlehem
where a star had guided them,
magi came and gifts unbound,
signs mysterious and profound:
myrrh and frankincense and gold
grave and God and king foretold.

Sing of God made manifest
when at Jordan John confessed,
“I should be baptized by you,
but your bidding I will do.”
Then from heaven a double sign –

dove-like Spirit, voice divine –
hailed the true Anointed One:
“This is my beloved Son.”

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Scripture reminds us that the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
And yet so often we are anxious and live in fear.
We do not truly trust in the light of God,
the living Word of God made flesh.
So let us confess our sinfulness,
trusting God's promise of forgiveness.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

O God, You create, sustain, and redeem all things.
Your love is manifest throughout Your creation.
You have come to us that we might see and hear and know
You in ways we never could on our own.
But we do not always trust in Your revelation.
Sometimes we doubt that Your grace can overcome
all the hatred and brokenness in our world.
Forgive our disbelief, and have mercy on us.
Help us to abide in Christ, and walk in his light.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News:
From the fullness of God's presence with us,
we have all received grace upon grace.
Through Jesus Christ, we are the children of God
called to participate in His joy and mercy and peace.
Know that we are forgiven, and made new in His love.

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 Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. ³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. ⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, ‘Glory!’ ¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever. ¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people!

May the Lord bless his people with peace!

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 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of all our days, touch our hearts and minds and spirits, and open for us new understanding of Your Word, new awareness of Your Will, and new commitments to follow Your Way. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen

THE SERMON

BAPTISM

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 291 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* (Verse 2)

Refrain: Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You swept through the desert; you stung with the sand;
and you goaded your people with a law and a land.
When they were confounded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

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 295 *Go to the World!* (Verses 1 and 4)

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

*The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Lois Hopkins on her 90th birthday.
From Martha Hopkins, Nancy and Harv Hopkins-Garriss, and Reed Hopkins.*

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-737649 . All rights reserved.
Used by permission CCLI#1241295

Thought for the Week: Psalm 65:9-10

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. ¹⁰You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SHARE OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY with the family of Atwood Huff, who joined the Church Triumphant last week. Atwood served as an elder in both our blended congregations. We praise God for His goodness, and for the promises of salvation He now shares with Atwood.

Susan Lockard would like to thank the Northminster family for their prayers, cards, calls, texts, food and flowers as she faces her health issues. Chuck and I are extremely appreciative and fortunate to be part of such a caring, loving congregation!

PERSONS WORSHIPING IN PERSON IN THE SANCTUARY are encouraged to move to their seats as soon as they arrive, and not to spend much time visiting in the narthex, so that we can continue to control the possible spread of the virus.

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.

THE OFFERING WILL NOT BE COLLECTED and plates will not be passed during the service, to protect worshippers from any possible surface-based contagion. Plates are located in the narthex, for worshippers to place their gifts following the service.

Northminster is proud to announce we have joined the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**. To participate simply go to the [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) website. Once logged into your **Kroger account**, you can search for **Northminster Presbyterian Church** either by name or code **PL601** and then click **Enroll**. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a *Rewards Card*. **REMEMBER**, purchases will not count for the church until after you register your *Rewards Card*. You must swipe your registered *Kroger Rewards Card* or use the phone number that is related to your registered *Kroger Rewards Card* when shopping for each purchase to count. If a you do not yet have a *Kroger Rewards Card*, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger. Contact Chuck Lockard if you have any questions. Thanks for supporting our work at Northminster!

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

Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer	Charlotte Cooley
Jim Cregger	Michael Hambrick	Jake Hayes
Maryanne Huff	Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer
Bob Lancaster	Homer Linton	Floyd Moretz
Mary Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	
Frances Stevens	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: Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Jeff Echols, Judy Ferrell, Vee Hayes, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Sherry Moses, Bob Newman, Jeremy Newman, Betsy Robison, Dave Snider, Gayle Wise