

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**JANUARY 17, 2021**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**GATHER JOYFULLY**

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

I Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

(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 89)

We will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord.

We will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.

We declare that Your steadfast love is established forever,  
and Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Come, let us worship our God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

God of the Word of life,

God of strength and purpose,

God of our calling and our sending,

we come before You in worship to share our praise,

to hear Your Voice, to discern Your path.

As we offer you our hearts, remind us

that we are all called to ministry in Your name,

various and unique ways, using gifts of Your Spirit.

Guide us by Your light this day and every day,

so that we might share Your love

in this broken and beloved world.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 720 *Jesus Calls Us* (Verses 1-3)

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth  
saying, "Christian, follow me."  
Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."  
In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,

still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

#### THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Our hope is in Jesus Christ,  
who establishes true peace and justice in our world.  
Yet we know that we have betrayed that hope,  
by contributing to enmity and injustice.  
We also know that if we confess our sinfulness  
we can be restored to a right and just standing  
before God and one another.  
So let us therefore confess our sins,  
trusting in God's promises of grace and forgiveness.

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

O God, we have been created in Your image.  
Indeed, You have crowned us with glory and honor.  
But we have lived self-centered lives,  
thereby failing to reflect Your glory.  
We have not treated others with dignity and respect.  
We have violated Your good creation.  
So we confess our sin, O God.  
Renew us and restore us to our rightful place  
as bearers of Your image and Your grace.  
Empower us as agents of Your love and justice  
in all that we are and all that we do.  
Hear these our silent prayers.

#### THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's mercy abounds.  
His grace goes before us, after us, and through us,  
restoring us and empowering us  
for participation in His work in the world.  
Friends, hear the good news of the Gospel:  
we are forgiven and restored,  
set on the paths of God's justice and peace.

#### 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 139:1-6, 13-18

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. <sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. <sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and

before, and lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. <sup>5</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. <sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup> I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

#### 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 I Samuel 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. <sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." ' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup>Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

#### THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O God, send Your Holy Spirit to open our hearts,  
so that we may discern Your Word and know Your Will.  
Through Christ, the living Word, we pray. Amen.

#### THE SERMON

#### HEARING GOD'S CALL

Dr. Merritt

#### HYMN OF COMMITMENT 53 O God, Who Gives Us Life (Verses 1 and 2)

O God, who gives us life and breath,  
who shapes us in the womb,  
who guards our lives from birth to death,  
then leads us from the tomb:  
deliver us from fears that kill  
the life we have from you.  
Help us to know your Spirit still  
is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out  
to venture and to dare,

to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt  
and find you even there:  
when we despair in wandering  
through wastes of empty lies,  
refresh us with the living spring  
of hope that never dies.

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 543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* (Verses 1, 4, 5)

God, be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me;  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,  
going ahead to light my way,  
and from beneath, above, and all ways:  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

**Thought for the Week: Psalms 104: 25-27**

*"There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING next Sunday, January 24, following the morning worship service.

THE CELEBRATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION for new elders will be held as part of the morning worship service next Sunday, January 24. May God's Holy Spirit be upon those who have been chosen to serve!

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](http://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
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
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