

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 24, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (from I Corinthians 12 and I Samuel 3)

There are a variety of gifts, abilities, and services,

but there is one Spirit, one Lord, one God.

The Lord is doing a new thing.

Speak, O God, for Your servants are listening.

Come, let us worship God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

You have created this beautiful, wonderful world
and filled it with life, O God.

You have loved this world so much
that You breathed Your Spirit into it.

You have loved Your creation so much
that You sent Your only Son
to live in it and to die for it.

Our Father, we thank You.

We praise You for this day, for this church,
for this hour together, for our fellow worshippers,
for the Word of life which we gather to hear,
and for Your love which sustains us every day.

Startle us again with the wonder of Your presence.
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* (Verses 1-3)

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, rich, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin,
God--Who is faithful and just--will forgive our sinfulness,
and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Let us confess our sin together,
trusting the promise of God's mercy.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, You promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the Body of Jesus Christ.
But we confess we are too often preoccupied,
focused on ourselves and our wants and desires.
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to love and care for one another.
We allow the past to hold us captive.
In Your loving kindness, have mercy on us,
free us from our sin, and give us new life.
Let us hear Your voice and see Your vision,
and live together in grace.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Christ, all the walls that divide us from God
and from one another have come down,
and bridges of reconciliation have been restored.
Hear the good news of the Gospel:
in the mercy of Jesus Christ we are forgiven,
and set on paths of eternal life! Praise 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 Acts 2:43-47, 6:1-7

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and

distribute the proceeds* to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home* and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

¹Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.' ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

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 John 15:16

¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O God, send Your Holy Spirit to us
so that we might discern Your Word
amid all the words of the world,
and that in hearing Your Word
we may be formed to follow Christ,
in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 767

Together We Serve

Together we serve,
united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
extending God's love to the last and the least.

We seek to become
a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home
to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve
in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.

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 536 *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen* (Verse 4)

Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia. Rise, O church, a living faith.

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

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Thought for the Week: Nehemiah 9:6

"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION of new elders, chosen by the Holy Spirit through election from the congregation, to serve. Our prayers for God's guidance and blessing are with them. The new elders are: Kathy Baker, Bob Bielawski, Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Tom Hale, Daniel Kirby, and Debbie Newman.

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SESSION will be held following the worship service today.

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 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 12:00 pm	Worship Service 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	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