

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8:1-13

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord with your whole heart,
in the company of the congregation.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
ever mindful of the covenant.

The works of His hands are faithful and just,
established forever and ever.

Holy and awesome is God's name,
and His praise endures forever!

Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

God of winter cold and summer heat,
God of heavy rains and dry riverbeds,
God of sunrises and God of sunsets,
God of nights and God of daytimes,
we gather to give You our worship and praise.

Yours is the earth with all its fullness,
and Yours are our lives with all their possibilities,
all their complications, all their successes and failings.

Tune our hearts now to sing Your praise.

Lift our eyes to see visions of life with You.

Strengthen our resolve to follow where You lead,
and fill us with Your Holy Spirit,

for we pray through the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me* (The Summons) Verse 1

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus calls us to repent, and believe the good news,
to turn away from our sinfulness and the temptation to sin,
in order to see and live into all God wills for us and our world.
So let us respond to his call, and confess our sin.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

You have shown us, O God,
what it means to follow You.
Forgive us when we fail, we pray.
Open our hearts and minds to Your teachings.
You have shown us compassion in the person of Jesus,
but we do not extend kindness to others.
You challenge the brokenness of our world,
but we choose comfort and status instead of Your path.
You create all things good, and Your creation sings Your praise,
but we consider only ourselves, and wound Your world by our sin.
Forgive us, O God.
Pour Your compassion on us this day, and by Your forgiveness
show us how to share Your love with others.
Hear these our silent prayers.

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's mercy abounds, forgiving us, restoring us,
and setting us on the right paths of His mercy and grace.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven,
and empowered to live into the coming Kingdom of God.
Praise 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 Psalm 19:7-14

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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 8:27-38

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' ²⁸And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' ²⁹He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy One, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us
so that we may hear Your Word and respond faithfully.
Tell us what we need to hear and show us what we need to do
to follow Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SERMON

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Dr. Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 718 *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* (Verses 1, 3, 4)

Take up your cross, the Savior said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross; heed not the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord for you accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life
and leads to victory o'er the grave.

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 749 *Come! Live in the Light!* (We Are Called) Verse 1

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another; to walk humbly with God.

THE CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

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Thought for the Week: Job 37:14-18

"Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God's wonders. Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes his lightning flash? Do you know how the clouds hang poised; those wonders of him who is perfect in knowledge?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday during our morning worship service. Please be in prayer and spiritual preparation as we come to the Lord's Table of grace.

THE WILLIAMSON ROAD MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION will hold its monthly meeting in the Fellowship Hall this Tuesday morning at 8:30.

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

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| 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

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 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