

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

July 18, 2021
Eight Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

II Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

*HYMN OF PRAISE 15 *All Creatures of Our God and King* (Verses 1 and 2)

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Ephesians 2:19 and Colossians 1:15)

Minister: Surely the Lord is in this place!

**Congregants: In Christ we are no longer strangers;
we are members of the household of God.**

Minister: Christ is the image of the invisible God.

Congregants: In him the fullness of God came to dwell.

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Eternal God, Author of our life and Victor over our death,
guide us this morning by Your Word and Your Spirit,
so that we can once again follow Your Way.**

**We know well that amidst the perils and temptations of this world
we stumble in darkness and too often do not walk Your path.**

**We are sinners, straying from Your Will,
choosing to go our own way.**

**So we gather now to again have our hearts, minds, and spirits filled
with Your love, Your hope, Your joy, Your peace, Your presence.**

**Forgive our selfish and self-centered ways,
and hear these our silent prayers.**

(Worshippers are encouraged to pray silently.)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Psalm 103)

Hear good news: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen!

*RESPONSE HYMN 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD John 15:1-8

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

THE PRAYERS 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 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those

who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Open us to Your Way and Your Word, holy God.
Inspire us with Your presence.
Quiet our distracted minds and help us to focus
on the message You intend for us today.
We pray through Christ, the living Word. Amen.

THE SERMON

TALKING ABOUT GOD

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 442 *Just As I Am, without One Plea* (Verses 1 and 2)

*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 634 *To God Be the Glory*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

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

We thank CW Markham for providing the music today.

Thought for the Week: *New every morning is God's love to me. In His creation His beauty I see. Each flower that opens and bird on the wing tell of His glory and His praises sing.*

EARTH CARE: *Choose natural fibers. Synthetics include plastic and other microfibers that may not break down for thousands of years. Instead, choose cotton, wool, hemp and silk.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUSTIN PLYMALE AND JENNINGS LOGAN, who will be joined in Christian matrimony this afternoon, July 18. May God richly bless their union!!

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING following the worship service next Sunday, July 25. If you have business or thoughts for the elders, or if you are interested in joining the Northminster family, please contact the Minister.

Hunger Buster bags are available for anyone interested in filling them for the Presbyterian Community Center. They will be collected on July 25th and taken to the Presbyterian Center on the 26th or 27th.

If you have any books that you have read and don't know what to do with them, please bring them to the church for the "Little Free Library". We are need of children's books-any age and can use current adult books. Thanks, again for your support of this project.

JUST A REMINDER: there are boxes in the narthex to recycle your bulletins.

ONLINE "ZOOM" BIBLE STUDY is being held on Wednesday evenings, at 7:00. If someone wants to join the zoom Bible study please contact the church secretary.

THE DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY IS MAKING PLANS for children and their families to return to church. Parents are invited to share their thoughts and ideas with Frankie Bielawski, Ministry liaison.

As warm weather approaches and you start getting out your warm weather clothes, please remember that we are collecting coats and cold-weather shoes that you may be thinking about replacing for Blue Ridge Literacy. Thank you for your support of this project.

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	10:30 am	Morning Worship
Next Sunday	10:30 am 11:45 am	Morning Worship Session Meeting

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	Lois Hopkins	Barbara Jones
Dennis Kincer	Reba Kling	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
Woody Huff (Mary Anne Huffs son)
Nancy Assaid (Sherry Moses' sister)
Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)
Berkley Persinger (Elise Lanford's cousin)

***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