

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

MAY 2, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Psalm 22:25-31; Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

HYMN OF PRAISE 13 *The Mighty God with Power Speaks,*
Verse 1 and 2 (Psalm 50 1-3)

The Mighty God with power speaks, and all the world obeys;
from dawn until the setting sun, God's wonder earth displays.
The perfect beauty all around from Zion's height shines forth;
and stars across the firmament so brightly beam their worth.

God comes not with a silent form, but riding on the winds;
before God's face, the raging storm its blast of thunder sends.
All hail the Judge, in bold array, whose promise is to bless;
who sees our sins, yet also feels our thirst for righteousness.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God alone is our dwelling place.
He has put gladness in our hearts,
He has filled our spirits with peace.
Our God has been gracious to us,
and in Christ is our salvation.
Come, let us worship the Lord.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION

O God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
You sent Jesus, our good shepherd,
to watch over our path, gather us together,
and lead us home to You.
May we not wander from his flock,

but instead follow wherever he leads us,
listening for his voice and staying near to You.
Let us hear his voice this day
as we gather in worship to praise and thank You.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN 36 *The Strife Is O'er*, Verse 2

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia! (Refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 50:1-6

¹ The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. ³ Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. ⁴ He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: ⁵ 'Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!' ⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah

THE PRAYER'S OF THE PEOPLE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 2:13-22

¹³ Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴ As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. ¹⁵ And as he sat at dinner* in Levi's house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹⁷ When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' ¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, 'Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?' ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, 'The wedding-guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. ²¹ 'No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of the Word, open our hearts and minds,
and give us the courage to follow where You lead
as we consider Your path this day.
By the power of Your Holy Spirit,
illuminate our paths and enlighten our spirits.
Through the Living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

A NEW WAY

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 169 *Dear Lord and Rather of Mankind,*
Verse 1 and 2 (Mark 2: 14)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

HYMN OF DEDICATION 522 *I Am the Bread of Life*, Verse 1 and 4

“I am the bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons.”

Refrain:

“And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

“I am the resurrection;
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die,
you shall live forever.” (Refrain)

“And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

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Thought for the Week: *Thank you God, for making planet earth, a home for us and ages yet unborn.*
Brian A Wren Hymn

TIPS FOR THE WEEK

Green Your Laundry Routine

Use cold water when washing clothes to reduce energy use. Energy is needed to heat water. You can also opt for a shorter wash cycle.

Only do laundry when the load is full. Not only does this save water and electricity but it also saves you money and time.

Avoid using energy to dry your laundry by hanging a laundry line or using a drying rack.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SHARE OUR SYMPATHY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE with the family of long-time Northminster member Bill Waddell, who joined the Church Triumphant Wednesday April 28, 2021. Bill is now held in the loving embrace of our Lord. To God be the glory! Our prayers are with Lois and his loving family.

So sorry for this late message, but I wanted to thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and calls during Tim's surgery and recovery. My Northminster family is a blessing.
Karen Smith

The Kirby family would like to thank the congregation for your prayers and cards as we welcomed Skylar Elise Kirby on April 9th. We are blessed to have a new family member and are anxious to be back with our church family soon.

We received a note that former Pastor, David Kirk, made a donation to Feeding Southwest Virginia in the church's name.

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION HAS BEEN CALLED

for Sunday, May 9, immediately following the morning service, for the purpose of electing persons to serve a one-year term on the congregation's Nominating Committee.

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.

We will be receiving the Pentecost offering today through May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday. Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come--children, youth and young adults.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure a lifelong faith and service. If you would like to participate in this offering, you can find the envelopes on the table in the narthex.

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 11:00 am Morning Worship / Communion

Next Sunday 11:00 am Morning Worship

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	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
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