

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

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Jeremiah 33:14-16; I Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Baker/Esworthy Family

*HYMN OF PRAISE 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion* (Verse 1 and 2)

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Blessed be the name of the Lord forever.

**Congregants: May the glory of God fill the earth,
and this gathering for worship.**

Minister: Glory be to the God of all wisdom,

Who strengthens us through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Congregants: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of grace, ever faithful in Your promises,
the earth and all Your creation rejoices
in the hope of our Savior's coming.**

**Prepare our hearts to receive him now
as we gather before him in praise and worship.**

**We confess that we too often do not live
in eager anticipation of him coming into our lives.**

We are sinners, broken in spirit and far from Your path.

**Yet in Christ You come to make us whole,
to forgive our disobedience, to give us new life,
to bring us out of our darkness into Your light.**

As we repent of our sinfulness, be with us now,

**and prepare our hearts to receive Christ as he comes,
for he alone is Lord, forever and ever.**

Hear these our silent prayers.

(Worshippers shall share their private prayers with God.)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (Verse 1)

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me. ³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let
them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach
me your paths. ⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long. ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old. ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! ⁸ Good and
upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. ⁹ He leads the humble in what is
right, and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and
faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

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.**

ANTHEM *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (Hymn 107)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 21:25-36

²⁵ 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among
nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and
foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be
shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great
glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because
your redemption is drawing near.' ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all
the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is
already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom

of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

WAITING

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (Verse 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 348 *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* (Verse 1 and 3)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

Today's Anthem 'Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn' is an Advent Hymn, 107, and the fourth verse will be our Response for the next two Sundays.

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Keep your neighborhood clean. If you see trash on the ground, toss it in the trash can even it is not on your property.

EARTH CARE: “You shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field.” Exodus 23:16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marie Haines would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, calls, and notes of encouragement following her recent surgery.

Thanks to all who participated in our Operation Christmas Child program. Lynn Kirby delivered 34 boxes from Northminster this year.

PIES TO THE RESCUE MISSION: A total of 27 pies were delivered by Judy Moore on Monday, November 22 to the Rescue Mission for their Thanksgiving meal; the pies were graciously received. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this project.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. You will find Joy Gift offering envelopes in your bulletin.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: We will not be purchasing poinsettias this year to be placed in the Sanctuary. Instead, we will take up a collection of \$5 from anyone who would like to honor a loved one (in memoriam), indicating the names on a list which will be included in the Christmas bulletin. The money collected will be donated to the Presbyterian Community Center. We ask that you turn in your request and donation to the church office by December 12th.

We will **NOT** be collecting used printer cartridges anymore. RAM is no longer involved in this project. If you know of anywhere else where they can be recycled, please contact Holly Woodson. Thank you for your participation in this recycling project.

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

Calendar

Today 10:00 – 10:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Morning Worship

Next Sunday 10:00 – 10:45 am Sunday School
 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

Ann Bailey

Bill Bailey

Frances Bowling

Bobby Brammer

Warren Campbell

Charlotte Cooley

Jim Cregger

Michael Hambrick

Jake Hayes

Barbara Jones

Dennis Kincer

Reba Kling

Bob Lancaster

Stan Lanford

Homer Linton

Susan Lockard

Floyd Moretz

Ann Pace

Mac Pace

Ken Riding

Buddy Smith

Sandy Smith

Jo Ann Threlkeld

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski

Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)

Berkley Persinger (Elise Lanford's cousin)

Carl Utley (General Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Peaks)

***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