

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

September 12, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 116:1-9; Isaiah 50:4-9

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

*HYMN OF PRAISE 610 *O for a Thousand Tongues To Sing* (Verses 1,2,5)

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Maker of heaven and earth.

**Congregants: Like an eagle teaching her young to fly,
the Lord keeps us from falling.**

Minister: O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

**Congregants: Your unfailing love and mercy never cease,
fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise.**

Minister: Let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

New every morning is Your love, great God of light.

All day long You are working for good in the world.

Stir up in us the desire to serve You,

and to devote each day to Your Son, Jesus Christ.

**We know well that we are unworthy of Your grace,
that we are broken, disobedient, and sinful.**

**But we gather now in Your promise to forgive us,
to speak Your Word to our hearts,**

and to give us strength for living these days.

Be with us now in our worship,

and hear these our silent prayers.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*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 Mark 7:24-37

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁸But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ²⁹Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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 James 2:1-7, 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

FAITH AND WORKS

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me* (Verses 1,4,5)

*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 611 *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (Verses 1 and 3)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, Streaming to the goodness of the LORD— For wheat and new wine and oil, For the young of the flock and the herd; Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, And they shall sorrow no more at all. Jeremiah 31:12

EARTH CARE: Reuse your plastics. Have plastic bottles? Find new purposes for them, like watering your plants. Have a plastic margarine tub? It's perfect for left overs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NORTHMINSTER FAMILY SHARES ITS LOVE AND SUPPORT with the Williams family, following the death of Ray Williams, this past week. We praise God for His many blessings, including the assurance of Ray's' heavenly welcome.

THE CONGREGATION SHARES ITS LOVE and Support with the family of Bethany Price, who joined the Church Triumphant August 24, 2021. Bethany was a true disciple, who loved the Lord and gave herself to sharing his love to others. To God be the glory!

Rally Day is September 12!!

Donuts, coffee, and juice will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:45. We hope you will join us for fellowship and the beginning of our Sunday School year!

CIRCLE 1 will meet Tuesday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the room next to the kitchen. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see everyone back for Bible study and fellowship.

The Choir will begin to sing for worship on Sunday, September 19th. We welcome new members! Please speak with Melissa Hudson if you would like to sing with us.

On October 3rd, we will be collecting our Peace and Global Witness offering. 50% of monies collected will go to our Presbyterian Mission Agency, 25% will go to mid councils and 25% will provide scholarships to young people attending the presbytery's annual Summer Peace Camp where children learn how to answer to violence and conflict with peace-building skills. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9.

Circle 2 wants to welcome all the ladies of the church to join our circle. What is circle? It's a group of ladies that meet once a month. We typically meet at a restaurant or at a members

home. We have a quick 10 minute lesson (we are all learning so no previous Bible knowledge is required!) We catch up with each other and socialize. We choose a group or event monthly that we support by putting a small donation in an envelope that we pass around. Any donation amount works. We support the Presbyterian center, adopted angel tree children at Christmas and have given to many other local groups. We really do have a great time and you learn so much about your church members and their families. The meeting last 2 hours or less. Any questions please email me Qisalem@hotmail.com or just show up. We would love to have you.

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.

Calendar

Today	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Next Sunday	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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
Mary Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Jo Ann Threlkeld

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)
Berkley Persinger (Elise Lanford's cousin)
Bill Woodson (Holly Woodson's son)

***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