

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

January 2, 2022
Second Sunday of Christmas

*O heavenly Father,
I praise and thank Thee
for the peace of the night.
I praise and thank Thee for this new day.
I praise and thank Thee for all Thy goodness
and faithfulness throughout my life.
Thou hast granted me many blessings.
Now let me accept tribulation
from Thy hand.
Thou wilt not lay on me more
than I can bear.
Thou makest all things work together for good
for Thy children.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP! You are special, because God brought you here today. Together we celebrate and rejoice in God's blessings in our lives!

GATHER JOYFULLY

THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

*HYMN OF PRAISE 147 *The First Nowell*

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: In the beginning was the Word,
the Presence, the Person of God.

**Worshippers: And the Word became flesh,
and lived among us.**

Minister: Blessed is the Lord our God.

Worshippers: Blessed is Jesus Christ our Savior.

Minister: The Lord gathers all His people
from wherever they find themselves in exile.

Worshippers: God turns our sorrows into joy.

Minister: Come, let us together worship our God!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Eternal and almighty God,
as You have led us in ages past,
so guide us now and always,
shining Your light into the darkness
of our world and of our spirits.
May our hearts learn to choose Your path,
and our new resolves be strengthened to serve You.
You have filled us with the light of the Word
Who became flesh and lived among us.
We know that too often darkness
seems to cover our light.
We confess that too often
we do not let our light shine.
Forgive our brokenness, our apathy, our fear.
Let the light of faith shine in all that we do.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

(Worshippers will enter into a time of private prayer.)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Verse 1)

Angels we have heard on high; sweetly singing o'er the plains and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Joshua 1:1-9

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, ²'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. ⁵No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (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.

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 150 *As with Gladness Men of Old* (Verses 1-3)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAINING FOR THE NEW ELDERS-ELECT will take place this afternoon in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

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 11:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship / Communion
Next Sunday	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday School 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	Charlotte Cooley
Jim Cregger	Barry Ferrell	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)

***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