

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

March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent

*To Christians, Jesus is the Incarnation,
God's love in person on earth.
God's love is visionary,
[perceiving behind the armor most of us don
an individual unprecedented and unrepeatable.
And God's love doesn't seek value, it creates it.
Christians recognize their value as a gift
rather than an achievement.
It is not because we have value that we are loved,
but because we are loved that we have value.
Love measures our stature; the more we love the bigger we are.
There is no smaller package in all the world
than that of an individual all wrapped up in himself/herself.*

William Sloan Coffin

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

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

*HYMN OF PRAISE 213 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 27)

Minister: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Congregants: Whom shall I fear?

Minister: The Lord is the stronghold of my life.

Congregants: Of whom shall I be afraid?

Minister: Come, let us seek God in this time of worship.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Our Lord and our God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
as You are present with us, help us to be present now with You.
Free our minds and our hearts from our earthly challenges.
Enable us to sing Your praises, share our heartfelt concerns,
celebrate our fellowship, and receive Your message for us this day.
Holy God, You lift the suffering of the world
towards hope and transformation.
As we move every closer to the passion of Christ,
may Your law of love be written on our hearts
as he draws people to himself, revealing Your love for this world.
Make us in all our sinfulness worthy of his sacrifice, we pray.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 22:22-31

²² I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: ²³ You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! ²⁴ For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

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

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler Hymn 183

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 8:31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

THE PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 215 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

*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 223 *When I survey the Wondrous Cross*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING this afternoon, following the morning worship service. If you have business for the elders, or if you wish to join the Northminster family, please contact the Minister.

Northminster delivered 16 bags of food and one cash donation to the Presbyterian Center. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Hunger Buster!

We are in need of individually wrapped candy for the annual Easter egg hunt. If you can donate candy please leave it in the church office by April 10th .

The Mission ministry would like to recognize Helen Taylor for sewing over 300 pillowcase dresses for young girls in Africa. While Mrs. Taylor may not be able to attend church, she is doing God's work and making a difference in the lives of countless girls. We thank her for her time and her talent!

Our church has sent \$500 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund. This money will provide assistance to those Ukrainians who are fleeing to neighboring countries. Initial assistance being provided includes shelter, food, clothing, blankets, baby food and diapers, other hygiene supplies, flashlights and candles, generators and fuel. If you would like to add money to this fund, please make your check to Northminster and add DR000156-Ukraine on the "for line".

It's that time of year when you start thinking of putting away your "cold weather" clothes and getting out your "warm weather" clothes. If you have coats that you may be replacing next year or any children's winter clothing, please consider donating it to Blue Ridge Literacy. You can leave them in the narthex.

The PW are launching their annual Sunnyside Project for the month of March. We will be collecting (sundries/toiletries) for the men and women who reside at Sunnyside. The items may include lotions, shampoo, bath soap, deodorant, shaving cream, after shave, toothpaste, mouthwash; also, crossword puzzle books, word search books, etc. Collection boxes will be provided in Narthex. Contacts: Sherry Moses or Judy Moore. Please help us make this project a big success. Many thanks for your participation.

I have found an organization that will take used printer cartridges. It is Angels of Assisi, an animal protection organization. So bring in your used ink printer cartridges and we will recycle them for you. There will be a container on the table in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact Holly Woodson. Thank you.

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

Calendar

Today	10:00 – 10:45 am 11:00 am 12:15 pm	Sunday School Morning Worship Session Meeting
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, 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 Pastor. If prayers have been answered and we can celebrate God's goodness by removing your name from the list, let the Pastor know.

Let us keep those listed below in our prayers.

Members

Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey	Bernie Barger
Frances Bowling	Bobby Brammer	Jim Cregger
Barry Ferrell	Maggie Hambrick	Jake Hayes
Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer	Reba Kling
Bob Lancaster	Homer Linton	Chuck Lockard
Susan Lockard	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Ken Riding	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Helen Taylor	Jo Ann Threlkeld

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski
Donna Betters (Sherry Moses)
Terry Foss (Sherry Moses)
John Morris (Sherry Moses)
Dan Kiser (Tim and Karen Smith)

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Tom Hale, Gary Harris, Vee Hayes, Jyke Jones, Daniel Kirby, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Dora Slee, Gayle Wise