



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

October 16, 2022
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; II Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 175 *Seek Ye First*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 118)

Minister: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregants: I thank the Lord that He has answered me,
and has become my salvation.**

Minister: The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**Congregants: This is the Lord's doing,
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Minister: This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Come, let us worship our God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 667 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

We praise You, Almighty God, for all blessings flow from You.

We praise You for Your bountiful gifts, Your grace, Your love.

We gather now in Your presence seeking to hear and know

Your Word, Your Way, Your guidance for our lives.

May this indeed be a time of worship and growth,

**as we share, as we listen, as we rejoice, as we obey.
For we know well that we are broken and sinful,
and fall far short of being all You call us to be.
We do not live as Your beloved, we do not share Your grace,
we do not serve where You call us, we stray from Your path.
In Your mercy, and through the power of the Cross, forgive us.
Free us from our bondage, and show us Your path for life.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Minister)**
Christ transforms. Christ renews and redeems.
Through Christ's death and resurrection,
we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory
and testify to God's grace.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONSE HYMN 538 *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
(Repeat)

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? ² My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸ The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

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

Lord of All Hopefulness (Hymn 683)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 18:1-8

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ' ⁶And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Minister)

Open our eyes that we may see.

Open our hearts that we may feel Your Spirit stirring.

Open our ears to the hearing of Your Word.

Through the Living Word, Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE SERMON

THE TENACITY OF GOD

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

*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 547 *Go, My Children with My Blessing*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Earth Care: If you are a hunter, use nonleaded bullets. Studies have shown that meat harvested from deer killed with lead ammunition can be contaminated with lead particles, endangering human health and harming wildlife.

Thought for the month. "Creation Sings"
Creation groans to see the day Which ends all bondage all decay
Frustrated now it must await The Lord who comes to recreate
Till round the universe there rings the song his new creation sings

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will meet Thursday, October 20th , at 8:30 at Famous Anthony's. All men are encouraged to join us.

We will have a Congregational meeting on Oct. 23, 2022 immediately after the morning worship service to elect Elders. We will be electing 2 people to serve as Elders for the Class of 2025.

NEW ADDRESS: Richard and Pam Claterbaugh, 480 Bluebell Lane Apt 212, Roanoke, VA 54018.

The Discipleship Ministry would like to thank the congregation for generously supporting the following Mission projects: Trinity Lutheran Helping Hands Fund, Bethany Christian VBS, Ukraine, Williamson Road Ministerial Association, Blue Ridge Literacy, RAM, PCC, Presbytery, Synod, & GA, Children's Home, Blessing Box, CEDEPCA, Kentucky Flooding victims.

If you and your family would like to participate in the 2 cents a meal program, please pick up a box in the narthex. You will also find an explanation of what the 2 cents a meal is all about. Our church received grant money from this fund to help defray expenses to put food in our Blessing Box. Once your box is full, you can return it to the church.

Presbyterian Women – The new year for the Presbyterian Women will start January 2023. Work on the year book has started and I will be gathering information on the circles. If you are not a circle member now, I encourage you to join one this coming year. It is a great opportunity for you to become more involved in our Church activities. We have two circles, a morning circle that meets at the Church and a night circle that meets in the homes of members. The meetings usually have a bible study, short business session and of course refreshments and a time to socialize. Call Elise Lanford at 769-8736 if you are interested in joining us this year. If you are a circle member now and your phone number or address has changed or you want to change circles, please let me know. This information is needed by November 1st.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in Peace. Isaiah 55:12.

Through the Peace and Global Witness Offering, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation here at home and abroad. 25% of this offering stays with our congregation, 25% goes to work in our region and 50% supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done across the globe. If you would like to donate, please pick up an offering envelope and brochure in the narthex.

Marie and I hope to encourage you to take care of the earth. So, we have placed in the bulletin some thoughts. Thought for the Month will reference words of wisdom through scripture and other sources. Earth Care will give you ideas on how to take care of the earth. We hope you will read and think of how we can save God's creation. Holly

If anyone would like to donate to the Presbyterian Community Center School Supply Needs for this school year, a list of items they need are on the bulletin board across from the office.

Our nursery attendant, Lauren Axelson, will be losing her helper, sister Caitlin Godsey in August. If you would like to help, please sign up on the sheet across from the church office.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Wednesday	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Bells Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's prayer breakfast
Next Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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	Frances Bowling
Pam Claterbaugh	Barry Ferrell	Maggie Hambrick
Jake Hayes	Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer
Sheila Lancaster	Homer Linton	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Ken Riding
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	

Friends and Family

Joaquin Bielawski	Annette Daughty
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	
Jay Taylor	
Owen Merritt	

*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