

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

*March 19, 2023*  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

***THE MORE WE LEARN ABOUT JESUS--AND THROUGH JESUS, ABOUT GOD--  
THE LESS INCLINED WE ARE TO SET ANY LIMITS ON DIVINE LOVE.***

*William Placher, "Jesus the Savior: The Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith"*

**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

I Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

May the presence of Christ be with you, this day and always.

### GATHERING HYMN 166

*Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* (Verses 1 and 3)

**Lord, who throughout these forty days  
for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins  
and close by you to stay.**

**And through these days of penitence,  
and through this Passiontide,  
yes, evermore, in life and death,  
O Lord, with us abide**

(Congregants will return to their seats.)

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 46)

Minister: God is our refuge and our strength,  
a very present help in times of trouble.

**Congregants: Therefore, we will not fear,  
though the very earth beneath our feet might change.**

Minister: Even if the mountains should shake,  
we will not be afraid.

**Congregants: For God's love endures forever,  
and He holds us in His mighty hand.**

Minister: We are His, now and forevermore,  
so come, let us worship God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 167 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

**God of wisdom and mercy, God of grace and goodness,  
You have created a world of beauty and joy,  
but in our sinfulness, in our pride, in our self-indulgence,  
we have broken Your gifts and strayed from Your path.  
In our thoughts, our words, our actions,  
we have done that which we should not have done,  
and left undone many things that we are called to do.  
Have mercy on us and forgive us, we pray.  
Restore us to wholeness, and embrace us in Your grace.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 576 *Lord Have Mercy***

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 145:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you, and praise your name for ever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. <sup>4</sup> One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. <sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. <sup>6</sup> The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. <sup>7</sup> They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. <sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow

to anger and abounding in steadfast love. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

#### PASTORAL PRAYER / 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

*A Right Spirit*

Stephan Casurella

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 16:13-26

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup> And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup> He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. <sup>21</sup> From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

#### THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

*HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN*

Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 833 *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

\*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 71 *Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me* (Congregation please join in singing the Refrain, the choir will sing the verses)

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

*The flowers in the sanctuary are placed by Sydney Bowling Duncan in honor of her mother, Frances Bowling, on her 98th birthday, March 18.*

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-A-737649 . All rights reserved. Used by permission CCLI#1241295

Thought for the month:

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres. Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas His hand the wonders wrought. This is my Father's world. Parts taken from the hymn "This is My Father's World"

Earth Care:

Decide not to add any items to the landfill today. Use real cups, cloth napkins, reusable bags for groceries and reusable water bottles.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

THE MINISTER WILL BE ON VACATION THIS COMING WEEK, so Elder/Commissioned Pastor Pam Claterbaugh will lead us in worship on Sunday, March 26.

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING this afternoon following the morning worship service. If you have any matters for the elders, or if you would like to join Northminster's membership, please contact the Minister.

Circle 1 meets Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am at the church.

Kids, Lenten activity books are available to use during church. You can find them on the pew outside of the church doors.

Lenten devotional books are available in the narthex. There are 2 to choose from. Please take one per family.

For those who would like to participate in our Hunger Buster for PCC, please pick up a bag from the narthex. You can put any non-perishable items in the bag. Covenant Presbyterian provided them with cans of soup from their Souper Bowl so soup is not needed at this time. If you buy items, just staple the receipt on the outside of the bag so they have an accounting of what was donated. Leave your bags in the narthex. We will take the bags to PCC on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks for your support in this mission.

This is a reminder that the Session has a bulletin board located across from the Secretary's office. The minutes from the Stated Session Meetings and a copy of the monthly Financial Report are posted. Other information in reference to the Session, Elders, committees, etc. can be seen there. Please take time to check out the business of the church.

The PW are launching their annual SunnySide project beginning this week 01/29/23 to run through February and March. We will be collecting sundries/toiletries for the men and women who reside at SunnySide. Boxes will be provided in the Narthex. Please help us make this another successful project. Contact persons: Sherry Moses or Judy Moore. Many thanks for your participation.

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.

We are looking for volunteers to help Lauren in the nursery each Sunday. if you would like to help, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

#### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

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	Frances Bowling
Pam Claterbaugh	Barry Ferrell	Joe Gwitt
Karen Gwitt	Maggie Hambrick	Jake Hayes
Barbara Jones	Dennis Kincer	Sheila Lancaster
Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Ken Riding	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Dora Slee	Helen Taylor	Patsy Linton and Family

**Friends and Family**

Nancy Assaid	
Joaquin Bielawski	Annette Daughty
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	Vicki Widener
Jay Taylor	Lucy Collier

\*THE SESSION \*

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

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



