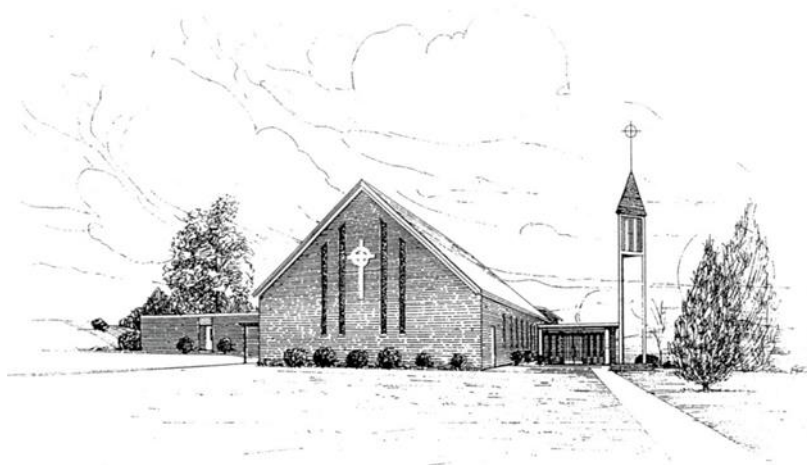


**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Welcome to Christ's Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

*March 26, 2023*  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent*



**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

Romans 8: 6-11, John 11: 1-45

(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**

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: We gather to worship God

**Congregation: God who makes bones dance**

Minister: God who calls Lazarus from the grave.

**Congregation: God who forgives us and gives us hope.**

Minister: Let us worship this amazing God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) Based on Psalm 130

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord. Hear our voices and let your ears be attentive to the voice of our supplications. We come into your presence confessing our sins, aware we have behaved in ways that are contrary to your desire for our living. We come into your presence aware that too often we allow lifelessness to gain the upper hand. We come into your presence aware that we put our trust in our own abilities.

Forgive us, O God. Infuse us with your life-giving spirit. Breathe into us and make us come alive. Hear these now our silent prayers.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The God we serve is the God of life,  
the God of hope, the God of new beginnings—  
even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams.  
That rattling of bones in Ezekiel’s vision  
may be heard as the shackles that once held us down  
in fear, sin, prejudice, and guilt.  
God defies these deadly entanglements  
with the power of life.  
This we trust, and by this we live.  
Thanks be to God!

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

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD’S WORD**    Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. <sup>2</sup>Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! <sup>3</sup>If you, O Lord, should  
mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup>But there is forgiveness with you, so that  
you may be revered. <sup>5</sup>I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; <sup>6</sup>my  
soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those  
who watch for the morning. <sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is  
steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. <sup>8</sup>It is he who will redeem  
Israel from all its iniquities.

## 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.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Ezekiel 37: 1-14

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

### THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Our souls wait for the Lord and in God's Word we hope. We wait for the Divine Word to envelop and guide us. We wait for the creating word to give us life and bring nourishment to our parched souls. Our souls wait for the Lord and in God's Word we hope. Amen**

THE SERMON

*Hope for the Hopeless*

Pam Claterbaugh

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 286 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

\*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 450 *Be Thou My Vision*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

We welcome and thank Debbie McCorkindale who is providing the music today.

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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

Circle 2 will meet Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Shakers Restaurant.

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

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.

### Calendar

|             |          |                    |
|-------------|----------|--------------------|
| Today       | 10:00 am | Sunday School      |
|             | 11:00 am | Worship Service    |
| Monday      | 6:00 pm  | Shakers Restaurant |
| 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

