

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

*March 5, 2023*  
*Second 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

Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

(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, from Psalm 145))

Minister: I sing Your praises, God my King.

I bless Your name for ever and ever.

**Congregants: Always true to His promises,**

**our God shows love in all that He does.**

Minister: We celebrate Your generous kindness,

and joyfully acclaim Your righteousness.

**Congregants: Our Lord is merciful, tenderhearted,**

**slow to anger, very loving, and universally kind.**

Minister: So come, let us worship the Lord!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 624 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

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

**Holy and merciful God, we confess**

**that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved You  
with our whole heart, mind, and strength,  
and we have not loved others as we love ourselves.  
Have mercy on us, and forgive us, we pray.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear Good News!  
God's love has been poured into your hearts,  
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
The steadfast love of the Lord never fails.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN**

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Job 14:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>'A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble,  
<sup>2</sup> comes up like a flower and withers, flees like a shadow and does not last. <sup>3</sup> Do you  
fix your eyes on such a one? Do you bring me into judgement with you? <sup>4</sup> Who can  
bring a clean thing out of an unclean?  
No one can. <sup>5</sup> Since their days are determined, and the number of their months is  
known to you, and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass, <sup>6</sup> look away  
from them, and desist, that they may enjoy, like labourers, their days. <sup>7</sup> 'For there is  
hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not  
cease. <sup>8</sup> Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, <sup>9</sup> yet  
at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. <sup>10</sup> But  
mortals die, and are laid low; humans expire, and where are they? <sup>11</sup> As waters fail  
from a lake, and a river wastes away and dries up, <sup>12</sup> so mortals lie down and do not  
rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their  
sleep.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**ANTHEM**

*In Deepest Night*

Hymn 785 'Rose Mary'

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 14:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.' <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Merciful God, transforming Holy Spirit, loving Savior,  
guide us into and through Your Word,  
so that we might be shaped by Your message  
and strengthened for service in Your world.  
Through Christ the Living Word we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*DOES GOD REALLY CARE?*

Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 692 *Spirit, Open My Heart*

\*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 494 *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given by the Presbyterian Women  
to the glory of God and in memory of members  
who have entered the Church Triumphant.*

Today we sing a new hymn that the choir introduced last week during the Anthem, Hymn 692 'Spirit, Open My Heart.' The notes for this hymn describe it as a prayerful text for us to be open to joys and pains from the pace and diversity of modern life, which can hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. It draws on Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26 and Jeremiah 31:33.

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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

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO ATTEND the celebration of holy matrimony in the wedding of Kay James and Russ Merritt this Saturday, March 11, at 2:30 in the Northminster sanctuary. THE MINISTER WILL BE ON VACATION next Sunday, so Elder/Commissioned Lay Pastor Pam Claterbaugh will lead our worship service.

Circle 2 will meet Monday March 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.

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.

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.

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.

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion

Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 at Shakers
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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
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



