

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

November 19, 2023
Twenty fifth 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

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; I Thessalonians 5:1-11

(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 336 *We Gather Together*

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 136)

Minister: Give praise to the Lord, for He is good.

His grace is everlasting.

Congregants: Give praise to God Who does mighty deeds.

His grace is everlasting.

Minister: Give praise to God Who made the great sources of light--
the sun, the moon and stars.

His grace is everlasting.

**Congregants: Give praise to the Lord, who protects and provides
for every creature.**

His grace is everlasting.

Minister: Come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 367 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Heavenly Father, it is with gratitude that we come to You in prayer.

Your goodness knows no bounds, Your love has no limits.

You are our dwelling place, providing comfort and strength.

You are the voice that guides us, with truth for living.

You are our joy and crown, our peace and hope.

**Yet we stand before You to confess our sins,
for we have done that which is evil in Your sight.
We've made mistakes and missteps and have strayed.
We have hurt others by action and inaction.
We have too often chosen our ways over Yours.
Forgive our past, we pray, and shape our future,
so that we can be transformed and can follow where You lead.
We seek to be the people of Jesus Christ, and him alone.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 588 *Alleluia*

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! **Congregation: Alleluia, alleluia!**

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Choir: Alleluia, alleluia! **Congregation: Alleluia, alleluia!**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Deuteronomy 8:11-18

¹¹Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'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.

BELL VOLUNTARY

Great Is Thy Faithfulness and Jesus Shall Reign arr. Dobrinski

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy Spirit, Your wisdom guides us to Your truth.
Speak to us today, that we might understand Your Will
and find strength and vision to walk in Your ways.
Through the Living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

THE GRATEFUL LIFE

Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 643 *Now Thank We All Our God*

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Generous God, with Thanksgiving approaching,
we give You thanks for all Your gifts,
and for making us stewards of Your creation.
Bless these offerings, we pray, and bless our giving,
that all will be used to glorify Your name.
Through the greatest of gifts, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*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 804 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

*CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought for the month: Sing praises to the Lord; praise our God with harps. He fills the sky with clouds and sends rain to the earth and makes grass grow on the hills. He gives food to cattle and to the little birds that call. Psalm 147: 7-9

Earth Care: Rest and reflect-a time to consider these questions. As Ayana Elizabeth Johnson writes, "we need to have a whole cultural shift, where it becomes our culture to take care of the Earth". How does the earth take care of you? How can you take care of the earth?

ANOUNCEMENTS

After church the Fellowship Ministry is sponsoring a traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon for our members, their family and friends, everyone is invited to stay.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday, November 26, in the morning worship service. Next Sunday is "Christ the King Sunday", the last Sunday in the liturgical calendar, when our worship themes merge into celebration of the lordship of Christ. Please be in prayerful preparation as we come to the Lord's Table of grace.

We are again collecting pies for the Rescue Mission. The pies can be of various flavors (pumpkin, apple, berry, cream pies, etc.). If you would like to donate a pie, please bring it to the church kitchen by Monday, November 20. The Rescue Mission is always very appreciative of the pies we collect for them. Thank you for helping with this project.

Family Promise of the Greater Roanoke Valley is seeking gently used blankets. If you have any to donate, please leave them in the marked box located in the church narthex. The Family Promise organization seeks to help families from becoming homeless in the first place with shelter diversion, rental assistance, and transportation programs. They also provide children and their families with safety, shelter, food, basic needs, and assistance as they seek permanent housing. They work by helping the families they serve not only succeed today but remain stable in their housing, financial capabilities, and career paths tomorrow.

The Discipleship Ministry is collecting games and puzzles for the Round Hill Elementary students. Please leave your donations in the marked box located in the narthex by December 10th.

It's Hunger Buster time again. We are collecting food for the Presbyterian Center food pantry. If you would like to help, please pick up a bag in the narthex, fill it, and return it to the church by December 3rd.

We are in need of new or clean used pillowcases for the Little Dresses for Africa ministry. So, if you would like to contribute, please bring the pillowcases to the church and place on the table in the narthex. Jane Livesay is doing a wonderful job of creating these dresses. This project is continuous all year long. Thank you.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Thanksgiving Luncheon
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Russ Merritt, Pastor
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Ministers...Members of Northminster

Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Lauren Axelson, Nursery Attendant

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	Karen Gwitt
Marie Haines	Jake Hayes	Dennis Kincer
Sheila Lancaster	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Patsy Linton		

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Steve Brammer	Glenna Brammer
Lucy Collier	Annette Daughty
Terry Foss	Molly Guerrant
Gladys Hughston	Skylar Kirby
John Morris	Vicki Widener

*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

