

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

October 1, 2023
World Communion Sunday
Eighteenth 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

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 25:1-9; Matthew 21:23-32

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

BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 403 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

**Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace.**

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Come, and let us sing to the Lord a new song!

Congregants: This day is God's gift to us.

Minister: Hallelujah! Let us open our hearts to His presence.

Congregants: We come to hear His Word and follow His path.

Minister: God Himself has gathered us together,
in this time and in this place.

**Congregants: Our God is good and faithful,
and we come to Him in praise and thanksgiving.**

Minister: Let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 503 *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious heavenly Father, God of great and small,
we praise and thank You for all Your loving mercies.
Be with us now, we pray, as we come before Your throne.
In Jesus, our risen Lord, we see Your glory.
Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ.
We are quick to accuse and slow to confess.**

**We find faults easily in others,
while ignoring our own shortcomings.
We squander Your gifts and turn from Your ways.
Have mercy on us, compassionate God,
and pour Your Holy Spirit into our sinful lives.
Wash us with Your forgiving love,
and cleanse us with Your grace,
so that day by day we might grow closer
to being the people You call us to be.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***RESPONSE HYMN 581 *Glory Be to the Father*
Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD II Samuel 7:1-11

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' ⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off

all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

Be Present at our Table, O Lord

Robert Lau

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy God, as we hear Your Word read and proclaimed,
speak to us, inspire us, equip us for life in Your Spirit,
so that we may be strengthened to follow where You lead.
We pray through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

THE SERMON

IMPOSSIBLE THINGS

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 525 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

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 536 *Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen*

*CHARGE (Minister)

Having come together, having come home to worship,
let us now go forth into the world to serve.

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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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.

ANOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IS WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, when we come to the Lord's Table of grace with Christians across the globe. May God's Spirit be with us and with congregations throughout the world as we celebrate our life in Jesus Christ!

Today, we are collecting the Peace and Global Witness offering. 25% stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our community, 25% goes to our Mid Council for work in our region and 50% of this offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe. There are two flyers on the table outside the sanctuary with more information. Please feel free to pick one up.

The Church will be installing new carpets on October 2nd and 3rd.

IT'S APPLE BUTTER TIME AGAIN!

We will once again gather around the kettle on **Saturday, October 14**. Mark your calendar and come share in the fellowship anytime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Reserve your apple butter by signing up on the sheets located across from the secretary's office or by calling our secretary, Susie, at 540-366-8115. If you would have difficulty picking up your order, let Susie know and we'll arrange delivery! No inflation on prices as they remain the same - quarts are \$8.00 and the pints are \$5.00. Remember it's available on a "first come – first served" basis. Please note we have all the jars we need for this year.

Circle 1 is launching a project to help students of the Teen Challenge - Eastern Appalachian Region chapter in Roanoke. Throughout October we will be collecting house cleaning products and personal hygiene/sundries Please help us make this project successful. Thank you 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 / Communion
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Russ Merritt, Pastor
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Melissa Hudson, Music Director
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	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	Annette Daughty
Shirley Basham	Terry Foss
Donna Betters	John Morris
Mabel Bowman	Vicki Widener
Lucy Collier	Gladys Hughston
Steve Brammer	Glenna Brammer

***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

