

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

*October 22, 2023*  
*Twenty first 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 33:1-12; Psalm 1; I Thessalonians 2:1-8

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

### MOMENT FOR MISSION

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: In this sacred hour of worship,

**Congregants: we give to God our hearts,  
our spirits, with our praise and adoration.**

Minister: With all that we are, all that we have,  
all that we are made to be,

**Congregants: we come into His presence,  
seeking His Word and His way for life.**

Minister: So come, let us worship our God!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 385 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Heavenly Father, Eternal Lord, our Rock and Redeemer,  
we come now in this time and place**

**to draw close to You, to receive again Your grace,  
to find strength and direction for our life's journey.**

**We know well that we fall far short of Your glory,  
and so we confess our sins and seek Your forgiveness.**

**You ask us to love and serve You and one another,  
to bless one another in Your name,  
to encourage and to care for one another.  
But we have not listened, and we have not obeyed.  
Forgive us for our failures, and give us grace to try again.  
In Your holy name we seek to be made new.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE HYMN 588 *Alleluia*

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

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## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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

*Jesus Calls Us*

K. Lee Scott

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 4:12-23

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.'  
<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'  
<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'  
<sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. <sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord God, we come to You for truth and guidance for our lives. Open Your Word to us, and us to Your Word, that we might hear Your voice. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*CALLED TO FOLLOW*

Dr. Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 720

*Jesus Calls Us*

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 733     *We All Are One in Mission*

\*CHARGE     (Minister)

The glory of the Lord is all around you.  
It is here in this sanctuary, but it also can shine  
in your home, in your office, in your car,  
on the playing field, at the grocery store and the gym.  
Everywhere that the children of God go,  
they heed God's call, and follow Christ's lead.  
Everywhere that we go, so does the glory of God.  
So go forth, with the love of God which makes you strong;  
with the peace of Christ, which makes you kind;  
with the power of the Holy Spirit, which makes you alive,  
today and tomorrow, and all the days to come.

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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Earth Care: Earth Care:

U.S. residents emit 16.1 tons of carbon per person per year, according to the World Bank. This is less than in the 1970's when that number was around 22.5 tons, but it's still far above the 2050 goal set by the Paris Climate Accords, which is 2.1 tons of carbon per person per year. To shrink your carbon footprint, if you recycle **half your household waste**, you can save 2,400 pounds of CO2 annually. Which of your bins is fuller? Strive to put more of your waste in your recycling bin.

Thought for the month:

“Respect for the human being and respect for nature are one and the same, but they will both be able to develop and to reach their full dimension if we respect the Creator and his creature in the human being and in nature.” Pope Frances

## ANOUNCEMENTS

Apple Butter boiling has come and gone for another year. A hearty “Thank You” to all involved. Once again the teamwork was incredible, the fellowship awesome, and the product delicious.

A SPECIAL LUNCHEON FOR ALL INTERESTED PERSONS will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. An informative program on planned giving will be presented. This is VERY IMPORTANT to the future life of Northminster, so please consider joining us.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated next Sunday, October 29-- Reformation Sunday--in the morning worship service. Please be in prayerful preparation as we come to the Lord's Table of grace.

A CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION has been set for Sunday, November 5, at the end of the morning worship service, to receive the report of the congregation's Nominating Committee and to elect persons as elders, to serve on the Session beginning in 2024.

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CONGREGATION will hold their bi-monthly meeting next Sunday following the morning worship service. Lunch will be provided. Our Ministries include Stewardship, Worship, Fellowship, and Discipleship. YOUR involvement is important! Please let the Minister know if you would like to join in!

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.

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Planned Giving Meeting
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion
	12:00 pm	Ministries Meeting

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
3911 Greenland Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-3250  
WEBSITE:WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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 Daughy
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

