

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

*October 29, 2023*  
*Reformation Sunday*



**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

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; 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

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: When we are full of joy and hope,

**Congregants: God meets us.**

Minister: When we suffer and feel helpless,

**Congregants: God is there with us.**

Minister: When we are fulfilled and celebratory,

**Congregants: God rejoices with us.**

Minister: When we feel isolated and numb,

**Congregants: God cares deeply for us.**

Minister: So let us worship the God of love together!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 35 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty and merciful God,  
bless us as we come into Your presence this day.  
We praise You and give You our thanks  
for Your grace and Your goodness.  
Give us ears to hear Your Word,**

**give us vision to discern Your path,  
give us feet ready to respond to Your call.  
Forgive us for our many failings,  
and for our embrace of sinfulness.  
Too often we prioritize our own interests,  
and we betray You and Your way of righteousness.  
Open our hearts to love, to peace, to hope,  
that we might serve and follow You alone.  
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 Matthew 18:12-14

<sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

*At the Table of the Lord*

Jay Althouse

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup

overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

## THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

*GOODNESS AND MERCY*

Dr. Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 275 *A Mighty Fortress is Our 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.**

## 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 4 *Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

\*CHARGE

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

I appreciated so much all the cards, prayers and calls I received from the church family. They really do lift one's spirit. Thank you, Elise

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in this morning's 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 next 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 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!

Calendar

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

