

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

October 8, 2023
Nineteenth 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 20:1-20; Psalm 19; Matthew 21:33-46

(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, from Psalm 33)

Minister: Rejoice in the Lord,
delight in giving Him praise.

**Congregants: Sing a new song to God,
for all His actions are true.**

Minister: God loves what is right and justice,
and His constant love fills the world.

**Congregants: God speaks, and it comes to be,
He commands and it is so.**

Minister: So come, let us worship our God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 394 *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of goodness, God of grace, God of great and small,
we give You our praise and thanksgiving
as we gather in this time and place to draw closer to You.
Be with us now, in Word, in prayer, in fellowship,
for we need Your guidance as we journey through life.
We confess that too often we trust our abilities rather than Your love.**

**We focus on our belongings instead of Your generosity.
We put our confidence in ourselves rather than in You.
Forgive us for our misgivings and misdirection's.
Redirect us according to Your Spirit and Your Will.
Help us to follow Your path and obey Your call to serve.
Open us to new levels of trust and joy.
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 Hebrews 11:1-3

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

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

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

Gordon Young

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Hebrews 11:32-40, 12:1-2

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of

lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

A VISION FOR THE CHURCH

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 451 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

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 846 *Fight the Good Fight*

*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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Today we begin to sing a new response hymn. The choir will first introduce the hymn, and the congregation is invited to sing the second time.

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

Thank you to my Northminster family and friends for all the prayers, cards, and hugs shown during this difficult time. I am so glad to be a part of such a wonderful Church family that reflects Christian love. Sue Lunsford

THE CONGREGATION'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE will meet today following the worship service. If you have suggestions for the Committee's consideration, please share them with the Chair, Pam Claterbaugh.

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 2 will meet Monday, October 9th at 6:00 pm at Shaker's Restaurant.

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, October 10th at 10:00 a.m. All women of the church are invited.

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 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Circle 2 at Shaker's
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1 at Church
Saturday	7:30 am – 4:00 pm Apple Butter Making	
Next Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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WEBSITE: WWW.NORTHMINSTERPCUSA.ORG

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

