

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

September 24, 2023
Seventeenth 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 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6; Matthew 20:1-16

(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 107)

Minister: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

Congregants: His steadfast love endures forever!

Minister: Let the redeemed of the Lord say Amen.

Congregants: Let those who are wise say Amen.

Minister: Let us consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Congregants: Let us contemplate His merciful ways.

Minister: Come, let us worship the Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 386 *Come, Worship God*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious and almighty God,
Your love for us knows no ending,
and we gather in Your presence to give You praise.
We pray that we might know Your strength and guidance,
for we need You every day in our life journey.
Forgive us for our sinfulness, we pray.
We confess that we often stray from Your path,
we do not serve and follow You as we should,**

**we do not share with and care for others in need,
we are not people of grace and goodness as You command.
Help us to live in Your Spirit of love and generosity,
for we pray through the mercy of Jesus Christ our Savior.
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 Kings 5:1-14

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.' He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.' ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.' ⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan

seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.’¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, ‘I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!’¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?’ He turned and went away in a rage.¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, ‘Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, “Wash, and be clean”?’¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

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.

ANTHEM

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD’S WORD Mark 1:40-45

⁴⁰ A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, ‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’⁴¹ Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I do choose. Be made clean!’⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.⁴³ After sternly warning him he sent him away at once,⁴⁴ saying to him, ‘See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.’⁴⁵ But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

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

HEALING

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

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 543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

*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 are given in memory of Piper Noelle Kirby,
identical twin sister of Quinn and daughter of Daniel.*

Thought for the month: "When we see the world as a gift from God, we will do our best to take care of it and use it wisely, instead of poisoning or destroying it". Billy Graham

Earth Care: We are collecting the following items to help take care of the earth. Tabs from aluminum cans that will go to the Ronald McDonald house, used ink cartridges that will be given to Angels of Assisi and used medicine bottles that will be given to the Salem SPCA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION MEETS TODAY following the morning worship service. If you would like to join Northminster, or have matters for the elders to consider, please let the Minister know. Lunch will be served.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated Next Sundays, October 1, World Communion Day.

PW Annual Gathering will be Sept. 23, 9:30-12:30 at Second Presbyterian Church Roanoke.

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.

Northminster for one of its ministries has the **Blessing Box** which consists of food and hygiene items. I am looking for someone to help me with this ministry. If you are interested, please call me, Holly Woodson 540-562-0263, and I can explain what needs to be done. I would love to have your help.

Kid's worship will begin again on Sunday, September 3rd. Kids from 1st grade through 5th grade are invited to leave the church after the children's time for Kid's worship.

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.

We are looking for volunteers to help Lauren in the nursery each Sunday. If you would like to help, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
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
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

