

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

*September 3, 2023*  
*Fourteenth 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 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26; Romans 12:9-21

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

### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING HYMN 385 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

**All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.  
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 662 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: The Lord shines like a lamp in the darkness.

**Congregants: His goodness will never fail,  
and His grace is with us forever.**

Minister: We come to praise God the Father,  
to honor Christ as Lord, and to hear God's Holy Spirit.

**Congregants: God's promise is true, and in Him  
our life is renewed.**

Minister: Come, let us worship God.

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Heavenly Father, we come as faithful and faith-seeking worshipers,  
to this time of praise, proclamation, and reflection.**

**Come to us where we need You, come to us where we can serve.**

**Open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to draw closer to You.**

**You have given us the power to discern good from evil,  
but often we fail and neglect our responsibilities to You.**

**We have strained our relationships with others,  
and have followed our own selfish desires.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and make of us a new creation.**

**Give us strength to stand up and face the world with confidence  
as Your beloved children, Your disciples, Your people.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Minister)**

Rejoice, for through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Leave your past sins, close that door, turn with hope to the future.

Let Christ have rule of your life, for in his name, we are forgiven!

**\*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** Genesis 12:1-9

<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. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

## 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.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Luke 15:11-20

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

## THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### THE SERMON

### *HOME COMING*

Russ Merritt

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(unison, from the "Presbyterian Confession of Faith")

**We believe in God.**

**We put our trust in Him, we serve Him, we worship Him.**

**He is at work in our time and place.**

**He is the living God, and His purposes will prevail.**

**He calls us to discern His work and to follow where He leads.**

**We celebrate life as His gift to us.**

**With the Church and Christians in all ages we say:  
"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!"**

## **GO FAITHFULLY**

HYMN OF DEDICATION 774 *There Is Now a New Creation*

\*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

*We welcome and thank C.W. Markham who is providing the music today.*

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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

Kid's worship will begin again on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kids from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> 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
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	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

