

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

September 22, 2024
Eighteenth 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

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; Mark 9:30-37

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

BUILDING THE BODY

GATHERING HYMN 408 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* (Verse 1)

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 19)

Minister: God's Word for us is perfect,
it brings our souls back to life.

**Congregants: We can trust God's Word
to give us wisdom and understanding.**

Minister: God's ways are fair and just,
and give delight to our hearts.

**Congregants: God shows us what to do,
and fills our spirits with light.**

Minister: Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 305 *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Creator God, Redeemer God, Sustaining God,
all honor and praise and adoration belong to You.**

**We are grateful for Your guiding presence with us,
and for Your attention to the concerns we bring to You.**

We thank You for Your Word and Your loving fellowship.

Yet we know we have gone astray from Your purpose for our lives.

**We are sinful, we are broken, our path is filled with shortcomings.
You call to us to follow, but we fail to listen.
We rationalize our way out of doing Your Will.
You promise to equip us for service, but we fail to trust You.
Forgive us, we pray, and make us anew.
Transform us, we pray. Encourage us. Strengthen us.
Make us steadfast in our faith and our journey with You.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God's grace is abundant. His redemption is free to receive.
God loves us, and in His Son Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise be to God!

***RESPONSE HYMN 538 Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
(Sung twice)**

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 4:5-8

⁵ Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. ⁶ There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!' ⁷ You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. ⁸ I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER / 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.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**God of glory, God of light, God of growth and discovery,
open our hearts and minds and spirits
to the hearing and receiving of Your Word.
May we listen, discern, and follow wherever You call.
Through the living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

MAKING WINE FROM WATER

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 683 *Lord of All Hopefulness*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**God of abundance and steadfast love,
You provide for us in ways known and unknown.
You have prepared and provided for us all our lives.
Receive now these tokens of our gratitude,
and bless them to the service of Your Kingdom.
May the gifts that we return to You provide for others,
and give glory to You and to our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*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 724 *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS BI-MONTHLY MEETING

today following the worship service. If you would like to join the Northminster family, or if you have any matters or concerns for the elders, please let the Minister know. Lunch will be provided for all in attendance at the meeting.

IT'S APPLE BUTTER TIME AGAIN!

We will once again gather around the kettle on **Saturday, October 5th**. 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.

The CROP walk for hunger will be held October 20th. This year funds raised will go to Feeding Southwest Virginia and the community Solutions Center. If you are interested in walking, go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org> to register or you can contact Lynn Kirby at 540-588-1782. If you would like to support this monetarily, make out your check to the church and put "CROP WALK" on the memo line.

The Presbyterian Community Center is collecting tennis shoes as a fundraiser. If you are cleaning out your closet and have tennis shoes that you would like to donate, please leave them in the narthex. They cannot accept anything other than athletic shoes.

While you are cleaning out your closets, if you have winter coats and shoes, we will be collecting those for Blue Ridge Literacy. Because of lack of storage, they cannot take anything else. You can leave your donations in the narthex.

We will once again participate in Operation Christmas Child this year. Be on the look-out for boxes to pick up and fill. They will deliver these on November 18th.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Summer Worship
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Nest Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Summer Worship

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

Russ Merritt, Pastor Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
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

Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling	Ellen Brumfield
Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer	Patsy Linton
Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace	Mac Pace
Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith	Vicki Whitworth
Dan Cone		

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Issac Franklin	Skylar Kirby
Gladys Hughston	Vicki Widener

*THE SESSION *

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Lynn Kirby, Chuck Lockard, Judy Moore, Dora Slee, Dave Snider, Greg Theimer

