

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

September 29, 2024
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

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; Psalm 124; Mark 9:38-50

(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 33)

Minister: Sing a new song to the Lord!

Live your life well, and shout with joy!

**Congregants: Everything God does is good,
and His kindness and love fill the world.**

Minister: God's Word made the heavens,
and His breath made the stars.

**Congregants: Let everyone who lives on the earth
stand in awe and wonder of our God.**

Minister: So come, let us worship God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 320 *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal God, from age to age

You have made Yourself known to us.

Often and persistently, we have experienced

Your guidance and protection and providence.

To receive the love of the God of all that is,

takes our breath away, and we thank and praise You.

**Yet at the same time we also seek Your forgiveness.
We exalt ourselves at the expense of others,
we puff ourselves up with pride and rigid certainty.
Soften our hearts and open our minds, we pray,
and prepare us to learn and grow through Your Spirit.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The prophet Isaiah proclaims to God's people:
"Your guilt has departed, and your sin is blotted out."
Hear God's good news for us on this day:
In the name and through the blood of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven, you are reconciled with God,
you have been made anew. 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 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; ² but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

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.

ANTHEM *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* Gordon Young
From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise
Every land by every tongue; eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy word: Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and see no more.
From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung through every land by every tongue.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 9:30-37

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy God, Light of life, Wisdom of all ages,
may our eyes be open, our ears be attentive,
our hearts hungry, and our spirits thirsty
to encounter Your Word and know Your Will.
Make us willing to follow wherever Your Spirit leads.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

HOW TO BE GREAT

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 738 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

Our Lord, You call us to Christ's mission and service.

**Bless these gifts, that they might spread
the hope and joy of Your good news.**

**Bless also the hearts and hands that offer these gifts,
so that our lives will reflect Christ's life of love.**

It is through that love that we pray. 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 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (Verses 1, 2 and 5)

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, October 8th, at 10:00 am at the Church.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated in our morning worship service next Sunday morning--World Communion Sunday. Be in prayerful preparation as we come to the Lord's Table of Grace.

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
Saturday	7:30 am – 4:00 pm	Apple Butter Making
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Summer Worship / Communion

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

