

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

*February 18, 2024*  
*First Sunday of Lent*



**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

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

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

#### BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

**May the hope that is ours in Christ be with you.**

GATHERING HYMN 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.**

**There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven.**

**There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.**

#### THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: O God Almighty, in You alone we trust.

**Congregants: Lead us in Your truth, and teach us Your Way.**

Minister: You are the God of our joy and our salvation.

**Congregants: For You we wait, for You we worship,  
for You we sing praise, for You we lift our prayers.**

Minister: Come, let us worship our God!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 165 *The Glory of These Forty Days*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Our God, in You is our hope and our healing.**

**We give thanks for all the way's You come into our lives,  
all the ways You answer our prayers and share Your love.**

**As we follow Your beloved Son, our beloved Savior,  
into the wilderness and challenge of Lent,  
show us signs of Your coming Kingdom,**

**and Your light of glory shining in the darkness of our world.  
We need You in our lives, because we are sinners.  
We fail to follow where Jesus leads,  
and we fall far short of being Your people.  
Be with us this morning, and guide us in our faith,  
so that we can leave this spiritual wilderness  
as disciples in a right relationship with You.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from John 8:31-32)  
Jesus says, "If you continue in my word,  
you are truly my disciples, and you will know  
the truth, and the truth will make you free."  
Sisters and brothers, receive God's truth,  
receive God's grace, and accept the freedom  
God provides, in Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*RESPONSE HYMN 576     *Lord, Have Mercy*

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD    Psalm 22:1-11

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me,  
from the words of my groaning? <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and  
by night, but find no rest. <sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup> In  
you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. <sup>5</sup> To you they cried,  
and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame. <sup>6</sup> But I am a worm,  
and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock  
at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; <sup>8</sup> 'Commit your cause to the  
Lord; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!' <sup>9</sup> Yet it was you  
who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. <sup>10</sup> On you I  
was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. <sup>11</sup> Do  
not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

*Create in me a clean heart, O God*

Carl F. Mueller

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

<sup>1</sup> 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup> 'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup> 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup> 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**God of grace and peace and light,  
help us to seek You and the truth You share.  
Let us not be distracted by other pursuits or pleasures.  
Help us to focus our hearts and minds and spirits  
on You and Your Word proclaimed.  
Through the Living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

*REFLECTIONS ON LENT*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 708 *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS

\*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.**

## **CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Hymn 497 *Bread of Life from Heaven*

Prayer of Dedication

## **GO FAITHFULLY**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 494 *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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*The flowers in the sanctuary are given by the Presbyterian Women to the glory of God and in memory of members who have entered the Church Triumphant.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We light the Baptismal Candle today to remember **Camdyn Elizabeth Cundiff** who was presented for baptism by her parents, Trent and Emma Cundiff on February 19, 2023. Celebrating with her are her grandparents, Greg and Margie Cundiff, along with Aunt and Uncle Lynn and Tom Kirby and great grandparents, Stan and Elise Lanford. May we all remember the promise we made to help guide Camdyn as she grows in the Christian faith.

If you would like to help the Hayes family we are suggesting you donate a gift card for any of the following stores/restaurants, etc. This will allow the family to purchase whatever they need: Kroger, Food Lion, Walmart, or any other source you select. You can take your gift card to the office next week and leave it with Susie for Vee or Hunter to pick up. Spoke with Vee and Hunter today after church; they are both in good spirit and are very appreciative of our help. "Thank you" to everyone for your help. Judy Moore

New address for Vicky Perry: 5540 Florist Road - Apt. 108 Roanoke, VA 24012

Lenten devotional booklets are available. We have one per family. They can be picked up at the narthex table.

THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH will meet next Sunday following the morning worship service, in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. EVERY member of the church family is encouraged to join one of the Ministries. The Ministries include Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, and Stewardship. For more information, or if you would like to serve, contact the Minister.

### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service / Communion
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Ministries Meeting

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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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**

Alice Baker	Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey
Frances Bowling	Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines
Jake Hayes	Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer
Sheila Lancaster	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Patsy Linton		

**Friends and Family**

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Steve Brammer	Glenna Brammer
Lucy Collier	Annette Daughty
Terry Foss	Molly Guerrant
Gladys Hughston	Skylar Kirby
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