

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

July 21, 2024
Nineth 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

II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; II Corinthians 12:2-10

(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.

TESTIMONY INTERVIEW

Marie Haines

GATHERING HYMN 2 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

Come, thou almighty King,

help us thy name to sing;

help us to praise:

Father, all glorious,

o'er all victorious,

come, and reign over us,

Ancient of Days.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 66)

Leader: Shout joy to God, all the earth!

Sing glory to God's name!

Congregants: Come and see what God has done--

His wonders are beyond all mortal understanding.

Leader: We rejoice in You, our God,

for You rule forever.

Congregants: All who stand in awe and wonder of God,

come hear of His goodness.

Leader: Let us worship our God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 686 *God of Our Life*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, Three-in-One, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

we praise You for Your everlasting loving-kindness.

**You have created the world and everything in it,
and You have fashioned each of us in Your own image.
You have lived among us, taught us Your path,
and in Your sacrifice You have reconciled us to Yourself.
Yet we confess that we have not opened our hearts to You,
we have too often strayed from Your guidance,
and we have sinned against You and one another.
Forgive us for our foolish and broken ways, we pray,
and give us strength and vision to do Your will.
Hear these our silent prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Ephesians 2)**
Our God is rich in mercy, and despite our sins,
out of the great love He has for us, He has made us alive,
together with Christ. Hear this truth: By grace,
you have been saved, and that is God's gift to you.
Thanks be to God!

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 Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends

of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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.

MUSIC VOLUNTARY *If You Only Had Faith* (Hymn 176) Lauren Axelson

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' ³⁸ He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Heavenly Father, in You alone we find words for eternal life.
You alone are the Holy One, the Source of all that is true.
Open now our ears and our hearts to Your teaching,
so that we may be strengthened in our faith,
deepened in our understanding, and equipped to serve
in Your name. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

FAITH AND SCIENCE

Dr. Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 797 *We Cannot Measure How You Heal*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**God of grace and God of glory, we thank You
for Your generous blessings which enrich our lives.
Help us to be good stewards of all You give.
May we in turn freely give with generous hearts,
even as we have received what You have given to us.
Through Jesus, Christ, Your indescribable gift, 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 834 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MINISTER WILL BE ATTENDING THE ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE at Massanetta, the Presbyterian Conference Center near Harrisonburg, this coming week. Elder Pam Claterbaugh will preach and lead worship next Sunday.

It's Hunger Buster time again. If you would like to participate, pick up a bag from the narthex. We will deliver them to the PCC on August 12th.

Once again, we are asking for your help in bringing your old or new pillowcases to the church. Jane has run out of pillowcases for the Little Dresses for Africa project. She has made over 300 dresses and wants to make more! We thank her for making the dresses and we are blessed with the talent and gift God has given her for her love of sewing. Thank you, Jane.

OUR SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE HAS BEGUN WITH Sunday school at 9:30 and worship at 10:30. Please make note, and set your clocks accordingly.

Calendar

Today	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Summer Worship
Nest Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Summer Worship

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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	Sheila Lancaster
Patsy Linton	Floyd Moretz	Ann Pace
Mac Pace	Buddy Smith	Sandy Smith
Vicki Whitworth		

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Lucy Collier	Terry Foss
Issac Franklin	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