

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

*March 17, 2024*  
*Fifth 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10

(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.**

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: To those who cast their nets by the seaside,

**Congregants: Jesus said "Follow me."**

Minister: To those who were outcast, lonely, neglected, rejected,

**Congregants: Jesus said: "Follow me."**

Minister: To those needing healing, of body, of mind, of spirit,

**Congregants: Jesus said "Follow me."**

Minister: To those who were seeking, those searching for meaning and truth,  
those open to God's breaking into their world,

**Congregants: Jesus said "Follow me."**

Minister: To those who come today, to worship, to hear, to praise, to pray,

**Congregants: Jesus says "Follow me."**

Minister: So let us come into his presence, and worship our Savior and Lord.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 223      *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty God, merciful God, ever-present God,**

**we praise You as we gather now in worship.**

**We thank You for Your amazing goodness to us,**

**and especially for Your gift of saving grace in Jesus Christ.**

**Bless us as we seek to obey Your Word and to follow Your path.**

**We confess before You that we do not keep Your commandments.**

**We are self-centered, prone to spiritual apathy and neglect.**

**We bow down before many idols, and ignore the evils around us.**

**Purify us by Your righteousness, we pray, and enfold us in Your grace,  
so that our intentions may be sanctified and our lives reflect Your love.**

**Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Scripture promises us that our God is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Through Christ,

He forgives our sins. May our lives reflect His grace!

\*RESPONSE HYMN 576      *Lord, Have Mercy*

## **GROW SPIRITUALLY**

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD    Psalm 99

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! <sup>2</sup> The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. <sup>3</sup> Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he! <sup>4</sup> Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. <sup>5</sup> Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! <sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. <sup>7</sup> He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. <sup>8</sup> O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. <sup>9</sup> Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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

*Elijah Rock*

arr. Jester Hairston

#### MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

##### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD John 9:1-17, 35-41

<sup>1</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' <sup>11</sup>He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' <sup>12</sup>They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.' <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But

others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ <sup>36</sup>He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ <sup>38</sup>He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.’

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Savior God, give us clear vision and open hearing,  
and willing minds and hearts as we consider  
Your Word for us this day. Standing firm in Your grace,  
let us open ourselves to the truth that You reveal to us.  
Through the Living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

*SEEING CLEARLY*

Dr. Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 182 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Your goodness is beyond our imagining, O God, and Your gifts to us fill our lives with joy, with hope, with promise. We bring to You these offerings, in thanksgiving and in commitment, and dedicate them to the work of Your Kingdom, through Christ our Lord. 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 213 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Northminster- You are the Best! Thanks for your calls, food, cards, and especially your prayers. You have been so kind and loving to my family and me. The Baker and Esworthy Families

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet Thursday, March 21st, at 8:30 am at Pete's Deli.

A SPECIAL MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE will be held on March 28 at 6:00 here in the sanctuary, as we gather at the Lord's Table of grace. Please make plans to join us for the evening's worship, which will include the traditional "stripping" of the sanctuary.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated as part of our Easter morning service on March 31.

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

## Calendar

Today	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Thursday	8:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast at Pete's Deli
Nest Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service

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

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

Alice Baker	Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey
Frances Bowling	Ellen Brumfield	Pam Claterbaugh
Betty Gehlert	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
Hayes Family	Dennis Kincer	Sheila Lancaster
Patsy Linton	Kay Merritt	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	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