

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

*November 3, 2024*  
**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**



***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

Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Mark 12:28-34

(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 121)

Minister: I look up to the hills and mountains.

Where does my help in this life come from?

**Congregants: Our help comes from God,  
Who has made the heavens and the earth.**

Minister: God won't let your foot slip,  
and God won't fall asleep or get distracted.

**Congregants: God watches over us all day and night,  
even when the dark is deep.**

Minister: By day God shields us from the sun,  
and is with us after the day is done.

**Congregants: God will guard our soul  
when we go out and when we come in,  
now and forevermore.**

Minister: Let us worship our God!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 326 *For All the Saints*

**\*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)**

**Almighty God and eternal God,  
we rejoice that nothing in all of creation  
can separate us from Your presence and Your love.  
You have knit together Your people  
in one fellowship as the Body of Jesus Christ.  
Give us grace this day to follow Your blessed saints  
in all joyful, virtuous, and godly living.  
In every age You have raised up  
men and women to follow You and to live and die in faith.  
We confess that too often when we are called to follow,  
we are silent, and indifferent to Your Will.  
It is Your Will that we serve and share Your love,  
but we remain idle, we are afraid, we turn away.  
In Your great mercy, forgive us, and give us courage to obey.  
May we join with those from ages past who have served You  
with faith, hope, joy, and love, that we might inherit the Kingdom  
that has been promised in Jesus Christ.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall receive mercy."  
Hear the Good News:  
in his blessed name, and through his grace,  
we have been 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 John 14:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told

you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

## CELEBRATION OF GOD'S SAINTS

### 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

*Blest are They*

David Haas

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

Refrain: Rejoice! and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you, Rejoice! and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. Refrain

Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God! Refrain

Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith the glory of God is theirs. Refrain

## MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

### THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Revelation 21:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)  
**Faithful God, how blessed are those  
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.  
Sanctify us by Your Word and Spirit  
so that we may glorify You and follow Your path.  
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON

*IF I SHOULD DIE BEFORE I WAKE*

Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 299

*You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

\* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**Generous and loving God, we thank You  
for the many blessings You have poured into our lives.  
As You have so freely given Your love in Jesus Christ,  
may we freely share that love with others  
through these gifts and offerings that we bring today.  
May they be signs of our devotion to You,  
and our willingness to serve in the name of 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 804 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

\*CHARGE

\*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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ON THIS ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, we thank God for those saints from our midst who have joined the Church Triumphant in 2023 and 2024.

We thank God for each of them, and praise Him for the place He has given them in His Kingdom!

Homer Linton (1/24/23)

Helen Taylor (4/16/23)

Maruma Warren (5/2/23)

Barbara Jones (6/28/23)

Ken Riding (7/31/23)

Barry Ferrell (12/25/23)

Alice Baker (4/27/24)

Betty Gehlert (4/18/2024)

Ann Bailey (6/4/24)

Shelia Lancaster (8/7/24)

Michael Weller (10/6/24)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY WE CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY. Saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of Christian martyrs. By the middle of the Church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs it was hard to give them all their due. So All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, remembered and forgotten and unknown. The day has been celebrated on or around November 1 since the ninth century. In the Reformed tradition, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. We especially remember and give thanks for members of the faith community who have died in recent time, and to pray that we will be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION HAS BEEN CALLED by the Session for next Sunday, November 10, at the end of the morning worship service, to receive the report of the congregation's Nominating Committee and to elect persons to serve on the Session beginning in 2025.

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am at the Church.

SAVE THE DATE Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

After church the Fellowship committee is sponsoring a traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon for our members, their family and friends. Sign up on the form in the Narthex or call Susie in the church office at 540-366-8115 so we will know how many to expect from your family. We want to make sure we have plenty of food for everyone!!

Bob and Frankie Bielawski are downsizing and relocating to 1608 Valhalla Court. Salem, VA 24153

New address for Lynn Kirby is: 363 Merion Circle, Daleville, VA 24083

Walt and Marie Haines would like to express our appreciation of the love and support that has been shown to us during these past few months.

Walt moved this past Monday to Brookdale Senior Living. He would appreciate cards, notes or phone calls as we make this transition. His address is:

Walter Haines. Room 207

Brookdale

2001 Ridgewood Dr.

Salem, VA 24153

His phone number is 540-556-8859

I would like to thank the following people for their support and help with the Blessing Box. It has been a year and these women have filled the Blessing Box once a week each month. Kathy Baker, Di Brammer, Janet Harris and Karen Smith. Floyd Moretz and Rob Barker have helped me load and unload the cases of food to keep the pantry overflowing. You are doing God's work and a big **thank you** goes to each of you. Also, thank you to the folks that have given food and monetary donations to the Blessing Box.

Presbyterian Women – The new year for the Presbyterian Women will start January 2025. Work on the year book has started and I will be gathering information on the circles. If you are not a circle member now, I encourage you to join one this coming year. It is a great opportunity for you to become more involved in our Church activities. We have two circles, a morning circle that meets at the Church and a night circle that meets in the homes of members. The meetings usually have a bible study, short business session and of course refreshments and a time to socialize. Call Elise Lanford at 769-8736 if you are interested in joining us this year. If you are a circle member now and your phone number or address has changed or you want to change circles, please let me know. This information is needed by November 17<sup>h</sup>.

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 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Seekers Class
	11:00 am	Worship Service



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	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
Dan Cone	Glenna Brammer

\*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

