

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

October 13, 2024
Twenty-first 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

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THE PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR PRAYER AND PREPARATION

Job 23: 2-9, 16-17, Psalm 22: 1-15, Hebrew 4:12-16; 2: 5-12

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

BUILDING THE BODY

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

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 (from Psalm 136:1-3)

Minister: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Congregants: O give thanks to the God of gods, for God's steadfast love endures forever

Minister: O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 403 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and merciful God, we often wonder what we must do to be right with you. The gospel tells us what you have done for us in Jesus Christ to make us right with you. We establish rules and try to follow them to win your love. You call us to trust in your grace and promises in Jesus Christ. We strive for security by piling up the things of this life. Jesus says, "Come, follow me." Lord, forgive our self-centeredness that seeks our well-being while we ignore the

needs of others. Forgive our relying on ourselves rather than accepting fully Jesus's call to discipleship. Hear these our silent and personal prayers.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

There is no wrong that God cannot make right.
There is no chasm that can separate us from God's love.
The Lord is patient and kind, generous and good.
God will not forsake you or leave you.
Turn to the Lord with confidence
and put your faith in God's great mercy.
By the power of Jesus Christ,
we are made whole. Amen.

***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 90: 12-17

¹² So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. ¹³ Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants! ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷ Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!

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

Like a Flowing River

Robert J. Powell

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD MARK 10: 17-31

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' ²⁰ He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.' ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' ²⁹ Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Almighty God, we join the psalmist as we say, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, may our hearts be illumined by your Holy Spirit. May our lives and actions reflect the light of your Word that others may follow your path, also. Amen.

SERMON

MAY WE LEARN TO FOLLOW

Pam Claterbaugh

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 720

Jesus Calls Us

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

Generous and merciful God, we thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus Christ. As we present our offerings today, give us grateful and generous hearts, that we may always follow Jesus in what we say and do. Help us to remember that every generous act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, from you, our heavenly Father. 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 372 *O for a World*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A hearty “Thank You” to all who helped make apple butter this year and to all who purchased the fruits of our labors! We had a beautiful day and wonderful fellowship! “Teamwork makes the dream work” and it certainly did for us. Thanks again!

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfasts have resumed following our summer break. We will meet Thursday, October 17th at 8:30 a.m. at Pete's Deli. It's a great way to start your day; come join us!

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	Worship Service
Tuesday	8:30 am	Men's Breakfast at Pete's Deli
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

***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

