

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

October 27, 2024
REFORMATION 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

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8; and Hebrews 7:23-28

(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)

Minister: Throughout the human story,
the Spirit of God continues to speak.

**Congregants: In vision and in voices,
in images and ideas, we encounter God's Word.**

Minister: In all languages and in all times,
to all people and in all places, God shares His Truth.

**Congregants: In Jesus Christ, God invites
humanity to discover Who He is and where He leads.**

Minister: The Church, reformed and always reforming,
is called to be open to the work and wonder
of God's creative Holy Spirit.

**Congregants: So we come now, to give thanks and praise,
to listen and to learn, to obey and to follow.**

Minister: Let us worship our God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 275 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

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

**Eternal God, Father, Son, and Spirit,
we bow before You this day in praise and adoration.
From Your generous hand we have received all that is good,
and we give to You our thanksgiving.
You alone are the Creator and Lord of all,
yet we fall far short of being the people You call us to be.
You have made us to be in covenant relationship with You,
yet our commitment is shallow and our love is weak.
We place lesser concerns high on our list of priorities,
and give You whatever time and energy are left.
Forgive our sinfulness, our stubborn spirits, our selfish ways,
and turn us again toward Your purposes and Your path.
Reform our lives by renewing our dedication to You.
By Your Holy Spirit, give us a new sense of our calling,
a new zeal in our faithfulness, a new compassion for those in need,
and a new appreciation for Your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
May we always be open to the reforming wind of Your Spirit.
Hear these our silent and personal prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God loves us. In Jesus Christ, He has declared by word and deed His love for each of us and all of us. In Christ's sacrifice and victory, we are forgiven, our sinfulness washed clean, our lives made new, and we know that we are His forever. 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 Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For 'no human being will be justified in his sight' by deeds prescribed by

the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now, irrespective of law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Christ, The Sure Foundation* arr. Anna Laura Page

We are not strangers to Christ. With the saints we belong to His household,
Built on a strong foundation of apostles and prophets of old.
With Christ as the cornerstone, with Christ as the cornerstone,
We are one in spirit in His holy name, one in Christ, together as His children.

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one,
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

Christ is the cornerstone, our Christ is the cornerstone!
We are one in spirit in His holy name, His children, we are the children of God!

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 2:18-22

¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, 'Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?' ¹⁹Jesus said to them, 'The wedding-guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. ²¹ 'No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an

old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Startle us, O God, with Your truth for our lives.

Startle us, O God, with the amazing news of Your grace, Your unconditional love. Startle us, O God, with the awareness that we are loved and forgiven and free to be Your joyful and faithful people.

Open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, our spirits, that we might be startled by Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERMON

ON BEING PROTESTANT

Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 624 *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

Creator of all life and love,

You have given our world and us bountiful blessings.

You have created humanity to share

in the wonder and joy of all these blessings.

We now give all thanks to You, Giver of all that is good.

We return to You portions of what You have given us--

our time, our energy, our commitment, the fruits of our labors.

May our giving from the fullness of our lives

be acceptable in Your sight, and of service to Your Kingdom.

We dedicate these offerings now to the work You have given to us,

in the name and for the sake 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.

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 518 *Your Only Son*

507 *Come to the Table of Grace*

Prayer of Dedication

GO FAITHFULLY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 321 *The Church's One Foundation*

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY, a time when we recall the rich heritage of the Protestant tradition (of which Presbyterians are a part). Our Presbyterian denomination grew out of the Reformation of the 16th century under leaders such as John Calvin and John Knox. It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, the watershed event that sparked the Reformation. Luther later wrote the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", which we sing today. Reformation leaders "protested" (thus, "Protestant") an expression of Christian faith that in that day left little room for the celebration of grace. Spiritual descendants of the Reformation today include Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Amish, as well as Presbyterians (and many others).

Next Sunday (November 3) is ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, when in worship we focus on those saints from our midst who have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as saints who are with us now. Please plan to join us for this moving service.

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^h.

The Northminster Discipleship committee has sent \$1,000.00 of our budgeted money to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund for hurricane relief. If you would like to give personally through the church, you can make your check to Northminster and add "Hurricane Relief" to the memo line.

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 / Communion
	12:00 pm	Ministries Meeting
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

