

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

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in 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

I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14

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

BUILDING THE BODY

GATHERING HYMN 165

The Glory of These Forty Days

Erhalt Uns, Herr

**The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Jesus promises that when we gather together,
God is present.

Congregants: God is with us here, and God is with us now.

Minister: Let us praise our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty Ruler of all.

Congregants: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of His glory.

Minister: The Lord God is with us now.

Let us ground ourselves in His worship.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kingsfold

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, Almighty God, Ever-present God,
God of all times and all places and all people,
Your goodness knows no end, Your glory is everlasting.
You have called us to live our lives in the way of Jesus.
You teach us to share generously, to love You and neighbor,
and to work to make the world a better place.
Yet we confess that we fall short, and our sins are many.**

**We focus on ourselves and our wants, we grab for more,
and we cannot see beyond our many divisions.
We do not seek peace or promote hope or share love.
Forgive us, we pray, and guide us back onto Your path.
We call on You, our only salvation, our true King.
We need You and Your mercy, we hunger for Your grace.
In Christ, make us free to live into our purpose again.
Hear our silent and personal prayers.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN 576

Lord, Have Mercy

Singapura

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Psalm 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. ³ Our God comes and does not keep silent; before him is a devouring fire and a mighty tempest all around him. ⁴ He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: ⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" ⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah

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.

Come and seek the ways of wisdom, she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of wisdom, crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Mark 2:13-22

¹³ Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴ As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. ¹⁵ And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners." ¹⁸ Now 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?" ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "The wedding attendants cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The 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. ²² Similarly, 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Loving and revealing God, may Your Holy Spirit
be with us, working in and through us,**

**showing us Your truth, Your wisdom, and Your way.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

SERMON
Merritt

A WHOLE NEW WAY

Dr.

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 169

Dear Lord and Father of *Mankind*

Rest

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

**God of grace, You provide for us in amazing ways.
May our gifts and offerings provide for others
and be used to further Christ's works of love.
In his blessed name 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 817

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Dunlap's Creek

*CHARGE

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST will meet Thursday, March 19th, at 8:30 at Famous Anthony's next to the Brookside Golf Course on Williamson Road. All men of Northminster are invited to join us!

SESSION WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING next Sunday, March 22, following the morning worship service. Lunch will be served. If you have any matters for the elders to consider, or if you would like to become a member of Northminster, please contact the Minister.

Join us March 29, 2026 from 8:30am-10:00am for a Pancake Breakfast! We look forward to your fellowship on Palm Sunday and we hope you can stay for Sunday School at 10:00am. There is a sign-up list in the Narthex. We look forward to seeing everyone on March 29.

The Presbyterian Women will be collecting items for Sunnyside March 22-May 2. Useful items for their residents are shampoo, lotion, toothpaste and toothbrushes, mouth wash, combs, brushes, shaving cream, deodorant (for men and women), bath soap, tissues, puzzles, books: crossword, search, daily devotionals and anything that the residents can use.

You can pick up a Lenten devotional booklet in the narthex.

Hunger Busters will be collected over the next four weeks. If you would like to participate, please pick up a bag in the narthex, fill it, and return it to the church. The food goes to support the Presbyterian Community Center pantry.

Calendar

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|-------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Today | 10:00 am | Seekers Class |
| | 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| Thursday | 8:30 am | Men's Breakfast at Famous Anthony's |
| Next Sunday | 10:00 am | Seekers Class |
| | 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| | 12:00 pm | Session Meeting |

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

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 | Joyce Barker | Rob Barker |
| Di Brammer | Pam Claterbaugh | Karen Gwitt |
| Maggie Hambrick | Marie Haines | Jake Hayes |
| Mary Anne Huff | Dennis Kincer | Skylar Kirby |
| Ann Pace | Mac Pace | Sandy Smith |
| Dora Slee | Karen Smith | |

Friends and Family

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Nancy Assaid | Joaquin Bielawski |
| Shirley Basham | Donna Betters |
| Lucy Collier | Terry Foss |
| Dan Cone | Charlie Wilkerson |
| Glenna Myers | Jack Argobast Jr. |
| Connie Watkins | Tom Kirby |
| Vicki Widener | |

***THE SESSION ***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson
Elders: Emily Allen, Frankie Bielawski, Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Karen Gwitt, Maggie Hambrick, Gary Harris, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Dave Snider, Ron Staton, Greg Theimer

