

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

January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

(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 744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey, show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive, from Psalm 111)

Minister: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord
with my whole heart.

**Congregants: Great are Your works, O Lord,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

Minister: Majesty and splendor mark Your deeds,
and Your righteousness endures forever.

**Congregants: You cause Your wonders to be remembered,
and You are gracious and full of compassion.**

Minister: So come, let us worship the Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE 159 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy God, eternal and yet immediate, beyond yet near,
we praise You for all that You have made,
for grace that amazes, for mercy that cleanses,
and for love that never lets us go.**

**Be with us now in worship, and hear our prayers,
for we long for all to be well, all to be right and whole.**

We know that sin clings to us, and we struggle to follow where you lead.

Our brokenness often blocks out the light of Christ.

We squander Your gifts, and turn from Your way.

**Have mercy on us, compassionate God.
Pour out Your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives.
Wash us in Your love and cleanse us with Your grace,
so that day by day we might move closer
to being the people You call us to be.
Hear these our deep and private prayers.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear good news! Despite our worst sinfulness,
God seeks us out with abundant grace and boundless mercy.
Through His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven! Praise be to God!

***RESPONSE HYMN 582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

(All will sing the verse twice)

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, And to the Son, whose grace has
pardoned me, And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

GROW SPIRITUALLY

THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

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

Walk in the Light

arr. Andre Thomas

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Gracious and giving God, illumine Your Word
by Your Holy Spirit, so that we might hear
and be who You would have us to be,
that we might draw closer to Christ, the Word made flesh,
and follow where he leads. Amen.**

THE SERMON

THIS HIGH CALLING

Dr. Russ Merritt

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

* PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF GIFTS (unison)

**With gratitude for Your faithfulness, our God,
and with thanksgiving for all that we have received,
we bring to You our gifts in faith and in hope.
Use them, and use us, for the work of Jesus Christ,
the Head of the Church and Lord of our lives. 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 733 *We All Are One in Mission*

*CHARGE

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

YOUR SERVICE

*Indicates the People Standing

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Thought for the month:

For the earth is the Lord's and all it contains. I Corinthians 10:26

Earth Care:

Make a "Green New Year's Resolution Happy New Year! Start the year by choosing a "green" resolution that is meaningful to you. How can you make more eco-conscious choices this year? How can you care for creation in 2024?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION following this morning's worship service has been called by the Session, for the purpose of hearing a report on the 2024 budget and electing the 2024 Nominating Committee.

The following newly elected and trained elders, having been examined and approved by the Session, are being installed for service during worship this morning. Our fervent prayers are with each of them as they seek to follow where the Holy Spirit leads. The new elders being installed are Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Dana Esworthy, Maggie Hambrick, Dave Snider, and Greg Theimer (who is also being ordained).

THE SESSION WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING of 2024 following this morning's worship service. If you have any matters to bring before the elders, or if you would like to become an active member of Northminster, please contact the Minister.

THE 2024 CHURCH FAMILY DIRECTORY AND PLANNING (AND PICTURE!) CALENDAR are available for all in the congregation, so make sure you get yours! MANY THANKS to Debbie Newman and her great team putting these wonderful gifts together!

We collected 160 items from the Mitten Tree this year. RAM will receive 45 items for the adults and West End Center will receive 115 items for the children. Thank you to everyone that contributed, knowing they will keep a lot of people warm this winter.

Join us for our Souper Bowl luncheon on February 4th after church. Soup and sandwiches will be served. If you would like to volunteer to bring soup for the luncheon, please let Lynn Kirby know.

The Souper Bowl supports the LOA for Seniors. During the month of January through the 4th of February, we will be collecting soup, crackers, ramen noodles, peanut butter or other non-perishable foods. Donations can be left in the narthex. Donations will be taken to the collection site on February 5th.

We will **no longer** be collecting used printer cartridges. Instead of putting them in the landfill, you can take them to Staples where they collect all sizes. Thanks for your participation in this project.

Calendar

Today	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Session Meeting
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Souper Bowl Luncheon

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

Russ Merritt, Pastor
Susie Tallmage, Secretary
Ministers...Members of Northminster

Melissa Hudson, Music Director
Lauren Axelson, Nursery Attendant

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

Ann Bailey	Bill Bailey	Frances Bowling
Pam Claterbaugh	Marie Haines	Jake Hayes
Dennis Kincer	Sheila Lancaster	Floyd Moretz
Ann Pace	Mac Pace	Buddy Smith
Sandy Smith	Patsy Linton	

Friends and Family

Nancy Assaid	Joaquin Bielawski
Shirley Basham	Donna Betters
Steve Brammer	Glenna Brammer
Lucy Collier	Annette Daughty
Terry Foss	Molly Guerrant
Gladys Hughston	Skylar Kirby
Vicki Widener	Bettie Barnard

*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