

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

*January 7, 2024*  
*Epiphany 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

Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Mark 1:4-11

(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 143 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you, who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

**Congregants: Today is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Minister: Sing out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Congregants: Worship the Lord with gladness,  
and come into God's presence with praise!**

Minister: The grace of the Lord Christ be with us all.  
Come, let us worship God!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION (unison)

**God of all glory, Creator, Lord, and Savior,  
on this first day of Your creating power  
You brought light out of darkness.  
On this first Sunday of Your new year**

**You gather us in promise and in hope.  
On this first day of a new week  
You bring us together in fellowship and worship  
to celebrate new life in our risen Lord.  
Yet even as we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving,  
we confess that we enter 2024 with fear and division.  
We have not loved You with our whole heart, mind, and spirit,  
and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
In Your mercy, forgive what we have been,  
help us to grow in You and to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall become through Your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may follow where You lead.  
Hear these our silent prayers.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace,  
in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Praise be to God!

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 150**     *As with Gladness Men of Old*

**As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.**

**GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**THE FIRST READING OF GOD'S WORD**     Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will  
arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your  
light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look  
around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from

far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

*Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child* Hymn 126

THE SECOND READING OF GOD'S WORD Matthew 2:1-12, 16

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'  
<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'  
<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.  
<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Lord, open our hearts and our minds**

**by the power of Your Holy Spirit,**

**and guide us through the darkness to Your light.**

**As we reflect upon Your Word that has been read,**

**and as we consider Your Word as it is proclaimed,  
may we hear with joy and hope and faith  
what You say to us today, and follow where You lead.  
Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

THE SERMON

*LESSONS OLD AND NEW*

Dr. Russ Merritt

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

\* PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* (unison)

**We believe in the God of our ancestors,**

**Who speaks to us out of the past  
and guides our steps by cherished traditions.**

**We believe in the God of today,**

**Who is still active in this, His world,  
and reveals Himself to those Who do His Will.**

**We believe in the God of tomorrow,**

**Who holds the destiny of nations in His hands  
and is shaping the future for the sake of His Kingdom.**

**So we come to His throne and bow on knee to Jesus Christ,**

**who has revealed the ways of God in our midst,  
and is the door for our salvation, and the redemption of the world.**

**Through His Holy Spirit, we give ourselves to God**

**each day of this new year, to live as His disciples,  
to share His loving presence, to walk responsibly in His way,  
and to pray for the consummation of His Will.**

**To God be all glory! 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  
Prayer of Dedication

## **GO FAITHFULLY**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 686 *God of Our Life*

\*CHARGE

THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

OUR SERVICE

\*Indicates the People Standing

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TODAY IS EPIPHANY SUNDAY. "Epiphany" means manifestation or revelation. At the Epiphany of the Lord we celebrate the manifestation of God's saving purpose to all nations of the world. Just as the magi came from a distant land to worship the Christ child, so God's covenant of grace is extended to all people who believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Traditionally, the actual day of Epiphany is January 6, and the nearest Sunday is called Epiphany Sunday.

We are updating the address directory. A copy is in the narthex for you to check and see if your information is correct or changes need to be made.

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m. If inclement weather, meeting will be cancelled.

The Men's Prayer breakfast will meet next Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 am at Pete's Deli.

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 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Tuesday	10:00 am	Circle 1
Nest Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Sunday School Worship Service

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	

**\*THE SESSION \***

Clerk of Session: Holly Woodson

Elders: Pam Claterbaugh, Richard Claterbaugh, Trent Cundiff, Matt Graybill, Joe Gwitt, Tom Hale, Gary Harris, Jyke Jones, Daniel Kirby, Lynn Kirby, Sherry Moses, Debbie Newman, Dora Slee, Gayle Wise