



# NORTHMINSTER

## *Presbyterian Church*

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020

### GATHERING

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Welcome

Prelude

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 130

Help, O God—the bottom has fallen out of my life!

Master, hear my prayer for help! Listen to my cries for mercy.

**If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings,  
who would stand a chance?**

**As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,  
and that's why you're worshiped.**

I pray to God—my life a prayer—  
and wait for what he'll say and do.

**My life's on the line before God, my Lord,  
waiting and watching till morning,  
waiting and watching till morning.**

O people of God, wait and watch for God—  
with God's arrival comes love,  
with God's arrival comes generous redemption.

**No doubt about it—God will redeem us,  
buy us back from captivity to sin.**

Amen!

Hymn #286

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

### CONFESSING

Call to Confession— Psalm 139

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
**try me and know my thoughts.**

See if there is any wicked way in me,  
**and lead me in the way everlasting.**

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty but merciful God,  
you despise nothing you have made,  
and you forgive the sins of all who trust in your love.  
Create in us in this moment new and trusting hearts,  
that, truly repenting of our sins  
and acknowledging our brokenness,  
we may hear again from you, the God of all mercy,  
your promise of full pardon and forgiveness,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,  
in whose name we silently pray ...**

Response #469

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

**Lord, listen you your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:6-11

Remembering God's Law – based on Matthew 22

**Our Lord Jesus said:  
“You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
and with all your soul,  
and with all your mind.’  
This is the greatest and first commandment.  
And a second is like it:  
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’  
On these two commandments  
hang all the law and the prophets.”**

Passing the Peace

Hymn #688

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

**LISTENING**

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

John 11:1-45

Sermon

Three parts Martha; One part Lazarus

**DEPARTING**

Hymn #821

*My Life Flows On*

Affirmation of Faith — The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Benediction

Response

Northumbria Community

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.**

Postlude

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## INFORMATION

### Welcome to our guests!

If you are worshipping online with us for the first time, we are so thankful to have you watching. We hope that the word of God gives you peace and encouragement and you will plan to join us in person when we are able to reopen our doors for public gatherings.

### Pastoral Care

Pastor Ralph welcomes and encourages opportunities to share in fellowship, pastoral conversation, and spiritual discernment. He keeps office hours most mornings at the church, but is always available by appointment. You are always welcome to call or text at 478-250-3355 or to reach out by email: [pastorhawkins@northminstermacon.org](mailto:pastorhawkins@northminstermacon.org)

### Lectionary Readings

March 29, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

April 5, Palm Sunday – Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

## PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office at 477-6646, or you could join us at our prayer group that meets the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM in Room 108.

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Karen Jones; Jewel James; Riley Brown; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; John Hurst; John Geerlings; Grace Goodwin; Edward Gleaton, Jr. & Family; Mary Ann Ellis; Kathy Wheeler; Andy Weaver

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow

Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; T. Wright Goodwin, IV; James C. Watwood; Joshua Sulkers

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The schedule for all Sunday events, including morning connections, worship, and yoga, will be evaluated on a weekly basis and publicized via email and Facebook. If you or someone you know is either not receiving the emails or need to receive a phone call with updates, please let Jennifer know ([admin@northminstermacon.org](mailto:admin@northminstermacon.org) or 478-477-6646)

### Cards of Encouragement

With most of us “sheltering in place,” I’m challenging each of our households this week to write at least 5 handwritten notes of encouragement for medical professionals who continue to work in our community despite the threat of Coronavirus. Indeed, our own flock includes at least 5 physicians; we have so much reason to be grateful for their sacrifice for the betterment of others. So let’s use this down time to spread some Presbyterian encouragement in the community. Here’s what you do:

1. Wash your hands!

2. Then take at least 5 note cards (do more if you want!) and on each one write a generic but loving word of encouragement and blessing to a medical professional (doctors, nurses, techs, etc.) Bless them, thank them, and let them know we are praying for them. Maybe include your favorite Bible verse or a quotation. Youth at home from school? Have them create some fun art or drawings to include.

3. Have your own note cards? Great! Use them. But if you want some blank Northminster notes to use, we have put a basket filled with bundles of 5 cards, including an optional "from" sticker. You can pick these up any time and drop off your completed cards in the same place.
4. Sign each note from "the people of Northminster Presbyterian Church," or use the sticker provided in your packet.
5. Seal each note by some means other than licking the envelope! Nothing to write on the outside.
6. What now? 1. If you are out running errands, drop them off in the church's basket outside of the church office, or bring them in if you see someone is there. 2. Otherwise, call/text/email me and we will send one of our driving church teenagers out to you to pick up your notes.
7. We will pool them together and then give them to our doctors (and others) to pass them out to staff in offices, hospitals, and clinics. A public ministry of encouragement!

DO NOT hesitate to reach out to me on any of these steps. Team effort! Thanks a million.

— Pastor Ralph

### **Special Offering – One Great Hour of Sharing**

One Great Hour of Sharing supports three programs - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. A special envelope will be provided for your offering.

### **Bells & Chancel Choir**

Due to the recent state-of-emergency declaration by the Macon-Bibb Mayor, our Bell and Chancel choirs will postpone rehearsals through Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. We plan to gather again Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, but will keep you updated should this information change.

#### **NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Our calling at Northminster is to make disciples, to grow in faith together, and to serve others in Christ.

CONGREGATION: Ministers of the Good News

SESSION of Ruling Elders: Sam Alderman, III; Boyd Ellison; Judy Hill; Ricky Smith; Ann Weaver;  
Emily Brown; Beau Kitchens; Lynn Denny; Charlotte Nolan; Sandra Ridgeway

RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate

SANDRA SMITH, Music Director KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session

BENJAMIN GAIL, Sexton JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

**Office hours this week:** Monday-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

WWW.NORTHMINSTERMACON.ORG

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