



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday after Pentecost
June 28, 2020
10:30AM

GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prelude

Guest Organist, Florence Snyder

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 130

From the depths of the world we gather before you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our voices, hear our prayers.

Let your divine ears be attentive
to the voice of our supplications!

**If you, O Lord, should keep score of iniquities,
who could stand before your holiness?**

But there is such forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered and worshipped.

**We wait before the Lord, our souls wait,
and in God's living word we hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who wait for all to be well.

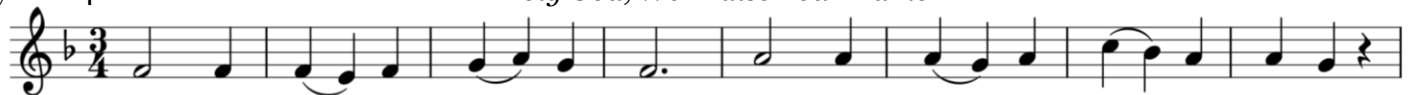
**God's people, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with the Lord is great power to redeem.**

It is the Lord who will redeem us
from all our iniquities.

Opening Prayer

Hymn #4

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow be - fore you.
Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred name they hal - low;
9 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it: three we name you,



All on earth your scep - ter claim; all in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi -
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim, in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the
proph - ets swell the glad re - frain, and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, and from
18 while in es - sence on - ly one; un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and a -



nite your vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
heavens with sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
dor - ing, bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Interlude

LISTENING

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:1-5

Sermon

Summer in (Matthew) Seven: Spectacles the size of logs

DEPARTING

Hymn #716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less
Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the gaols of Christ, your
Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your grace con -



4
store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered
Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, race - es joined, the church made
ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel



8
door; gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - fering up our - selves in
one. Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a -
word. O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less



12
praise; thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
lone. Born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
call, heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

*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

Postlude



INFORMATION

Welcome to our guests!

Whether you are sharing in the worship of God with us for the first time, visiting with family or friends, or returning for a visit to your home church, we welcome you today in the name of Jesus. Please share some contact information with us so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship. You may email our church office at admin@northminstermacon.org.

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

Lectionary Readings

June 28, 4th Sunday after Pentecost – Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 5, 5th Sunday after Pentecost – Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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
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

Puzzling Times – the Puzzle closet is still available

During these "puzzling times", several NPC members have enjoyed working on and swapping jigsaw puzzles. A collection of puzzles is being amassed at the church for YOU to enjoy!

They will be housed on shelves in the room next to Ralph's office. Feel free to borrow one at any time. If you would like to add to the collection, just drop the puzzles off at the church. When you complete one, please list your name/date on the inside of the box top. Enjoy!

Backpack Ministry

If you are interested in helping the backpack ministry by delivering (on a rotating schedule with other volunteers) the food packages to Rosa Taylor this 2020-2021 school year, please contact Suzann Smith at rcsws4850@gmail.com or 478-718-1021.

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: Mon-Fri 9:00-1:00

Monday Morning

Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults— unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor.

Jesus, Matthew 7 — The Message

O Father, give us the humility which realizes its ignorance, admits its mistakes, recognizes its need, welcomes advice, accepts rebuke. Help us always to praise rather than to criticize, to sympathize rather than to condemn and discourage, to build rather than to destroy, and to think of people at their best rather than at their worst. This we ask for thy name's sake.

William Barclay (1907–78)

Scottish minister, professor, author, radio and television presenter

God sent his Son
to proclaim release to those who are bound,
to announce that God's promised kingdom is at hand, to urge
everyone to repent and believe the good news. The Lord is
moving toward the time
when the glorious liberty of the children of God
will be manifest throughout the whole creation.
We testify God is at work here and now
when people obey Christ's commission
to witness to him and make disciples of all nations, when they
spread the good news by their words
and embody it in their lives.

We believe that God sends us
to tell all nations
that Christ calls everyone to repentance, faith and obedience. We
are to proclaim by word and deed
that Christ gave himself to set people free
from sin and self-hatred,
from ignorance and disease,

from all forms of oppression,
and even from death.
We are to offer them in Christ's name
fullness of life now and forever.
We must not distort the gospel
by weakening its promises or demands,
by identifying it with oppressive structures,
by pointing to ourselves instead of Christ.
We must not restrict our proclamation
to persons just like ourselves.
We invite people everywhere
to believe in Christ and become his followers.
We urge them to join us in telling others the good news and in
struggling for justice, compassion, and peace.

from *A Declaration of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (USA)

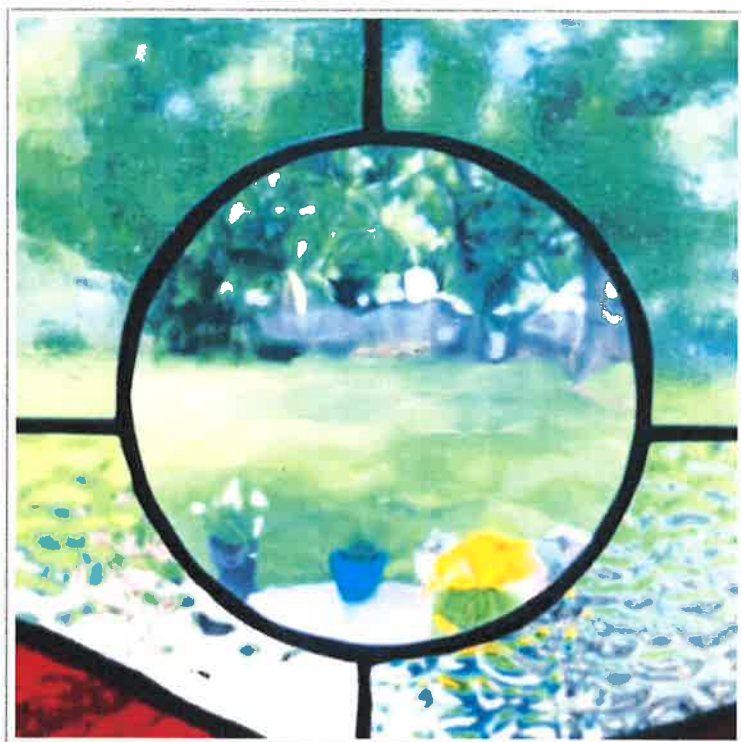
my father and I stood
in the still heat
of the churchyard
 grown wild with tall grasses
 and red-winged blackbirds'
 burrs &
 loops
 of song

the pews inside were gone
bees hived in the rafters above the altar,
 the anger of the Baptist long silent,
and the boarded windows let in streams of moted light.

my father was a man who read
the gentleness of the mountain
in the clear stream

I was afraid he was ashamed
that his old church stood so small
in the wild grass,
but he smiled
with an easy heart

"on my way to Santa Rosa" by Ingrid Swanberg
from *Ariadne and Other Poems* — Bottom Dog Press, 2013



The Beginnings of Knowing — RWH, June 2020

The whole of the sermon in Matthew 5-7 is framed within Jesus's announcement that what his fellow Jews had longed for over many generations was now at last coming to pass — but that new kingdom didn't look like they had thought it would. Indeed, in some ways it went in exactly the other direction. No violence, no hatred of enemies, no anxious protection of land and property against the pagan hordes. In short, no frantic intensification of the ancestral codes of life. Rather, a glad and unworried trust in the creator God, whose kingdom is now at last starting to arrive, leading to a generous heart toward other people, even those who are technically "enemies." Faith, hope, and love: here they are again. They are the language of life, the sign in the present of green shoots growing through the concrete of this sad old world, the indication that the creator God is on the move, and that Jesus' hearers and followers can be part of what he's now doing.

N.T. Wright — British New Testament scholar

Lord,
from You flows true and continual kindness.
You had cast us off and justly so,
but in Your mercy You forgave us.
You were at odds with us,
and You reconciled us.
You had set a curse on us,
and You blessed us.
You had banished us from the garden,
and You called us back again.
You took away the fig leaves
that had been an unsuitable garment,
and You clothed us in a cloak of great value.
You flung wide the prison gates,
and You gave the condemned a pardon.
You sprinkled clean water on us,
and You washed away the dirt.

St. Gregory of Nyssa (330–95) — bishop of Nyssa, Cappadocian Father



“Don’t judge my client by the covers of the books he reads.”

Summer in Seven

Jesus' teaching in chapter 7 of the Gospel of Matthew

June 28 — Judging Others

1 “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

July 5 — Profaning the Holy

6 “Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

July 12 — Ask, Search, Knock

7 “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

July 19 — The Golden Rule

12 “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

August 2 — The Narrow Gate

13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

August 9 — A Tree and Its Fruit

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.

August 16 — Concerning Self-Deception

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’

August 23 — Hearers and Doers

24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”