



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prelude

Canon in D
Florence Snyder, organ

Johann Pachelbel

Call to Worship — based on Jeremiah 31

We sing with joy at the top of our lungs for God!

Announce the good news to all!

Raise cheers! Sing praises. Say,

‘God has saved his people,

saved the core of those God loves.’

Watch what comes next:

“I’ll bring my people back from the far country

And gather them up from the ends of the earth,

gather those who’ve gone blind And those who are lame and limping,

gather all the women and men, Even the mothers whose birth pangs have started, bring them all back, a huge crowd!

“Watch them come! They’ll come weeping for joy

as I take their hands and lead them,

Lead them to fresh flowing brooks,

lead them along smooth, uncluttered paths.

Yes, it’s because I’m Israel’s Father and my people are my firstborn!”

Hear this, nations! God’s Message!

Broadcast this all over the world!

Tell them, “The One who scattered the proud
will gather the meek together again.

From now on he’ll keep a careful eye on them,

like a shepherd with his flock.’

Morning Prayer

*Hymn #134

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let
Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns! Let all their songs employ, while
No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the
8
ev - ry heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and
fields, and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found, far
14
glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness and won - ders of his love, and
heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and heaven and na - ture sing.
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat re - peat the sound - ing joy.
as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**God of the Bethlehem star,
everyone is searching for your light
shining in the face of Jesus.
The Magi sought Christ simply to worship him.
But Herod sought him to appease his jealous anger.
We confess that our motives
in seeking Jesus are not always pure.
We do not come simply to worship:
we come to Christ, asking his benefits
of reassurance, health, wealth;
asking him to fulfill the hundred petitions
for not-so-important requests that we heap before him.
But the Magi sought first the kingdom.
Help us, God, to follow their example,
putting our own need in perspective,
worshiping the Christ in love,
content to be in your presence,
and laying our gifts before you.
Then may we journey,
trusting that your goodness and light
will accompany us all the days of our life.
Hear now our silent prayers ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Hymn #143

Angels from the Realms of Glory



An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light:
seek the great de - sire of na - tions; you have seen his na - tal star:
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the_ 'ter - nal Three in One:



come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the now - born king!

*Signs of Peace

LISTENING

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Scripture

Ephesians 1:3-14

Interlude

Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

Scripture

John 1:1-18

Sermon

We've Grown Accustomed to His Face

DEPARTING

*Hymn #459

O Word of God Incarnate



O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

*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.

Congregational Meeting

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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

January 3, 2nd Sunday of Christmas – Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18
January 10, 3rd Baptism of the Lord – Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Congregational Meeting

Today immediately following the worship service, we will hold a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing elders for the upcoming year. Though the slate is not yet complete, our nominees thus far include Kari Alderman, Roland Hill, Jan Hirsh, and Minor Vernon.

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Karen Jones; Jewel James; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; John Hurst; Jon Geerlings; Mary Ann Ellis; Kathy Wheeler; Shelby Duffy; Fran Mayhew; Betty Barlow; Suzann Smith
Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Kirk Knox
Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; James C Watwood; Joshua Sulkers

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: Thursday only 8:00-1:00

WWW.NORTHMINSTERMACON.ORG

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