



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prayer in Silence

Prelude

Beautiful Savior

David Johnson

Prayer in Words

*Hymn #166

Lord, Who, throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who through - out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory win,
And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion - tide,
A - bide with us, thill when this life of suf - fering shall be past,

5

teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Call to Confession

O Christ, Savior, like the seed fallen to the ground,
you suffered death.

United to you, our lives will bear much fruit.

We praise you, O Lord.

O Christ, you went down to the lowest point of our human condition;
you remain close to all who are abandoned.

We praise you, O Lord.

In your love you took upon yourself our sins;
innocent, you accepted death to free us from death.

We praise you, O Lord.

(over)

By your love you conquered evil and hatred,
and you live forever at the Father's side.

We praise you, O Lord.

You listen to us in your goodness, and you visit us in our misfortune;
fill our hearts to overflowing by revealing to us the light of your face.

We praise you, O Lord.

Hear now our silent prayers ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness— based on Psalm 91

Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord;

I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble.

I will rescue them and honor them

and show them my salvation.

Receive the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Hymn #175

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its righ - teous - ness,
Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek, and you shall find;
You shall not live by bread a - lone, but by ev - ery word

9
and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al-le - lu - ia!
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

Remembering God's Law

What is the great and first commandment?

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

What is the second commandment like it?

Love your neighbor as well as you love yourself.

What does this mean?

Love is the fulfilling of all God's laws.

To what does this call us?

To a life of faith working through love.

*Sharing Signs of Peace

LISTENING

Prayers of Intercession

Scripture

Matthew 6:19-23

Interlude

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

arr. Cindy Berry

Scripture

Philippians 4:1-9

Sermon

Lent: A time to “think on these things”

DEPARTING

*Hymn #353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un-chang-ing grace;
His oath, his cov-e-nant, his blood sup-port me in the whelm-ing flood;
When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in him be found,

I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
in ev-ery high and storm-y gale, my an-chor holds with-in the veil.
when all a-round m soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
dressed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, fault-less to stand be-fore the throne.

10 Refrain
On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all oth-er ground is

14
sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

*Prayer in Silence

*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 & Announcements

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

Feb. 21, 1st Sunday in Lent – Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 19:9-15

Feb. 28, 2nd Sunday in Lent – Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

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; Kathy Wheeler; Shelby Duffy; Fran Mayhew; Betty Barlow; Suzann Smith; Jack Gleaton; Donna Shuford; Frank Clark

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Kirk Knox; Chrissy and Ronnie Hill

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

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: Kari Alderman; Emily Brown; Lynn Denny; Roland Hill; Jan Hirsh; Beau Kitchens; Melissa McDougald; Charlotte Nolan; Sandra Ridgeway; Minor Vernon

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 8:00-1:00

The speaker points out that we don't really have much of a grasp of things, not only the big things, the important questions, but the small everyday things. "How many steps up to your front door? What kind of tree grows in your backyard? What is the name of your district representative? What is your wife's shoe size? Can you tell me the color of your sweetheart's eyes? Do you remember where you parked the car?" The evidence is overwhelming. Most of us never truly experience life. "We drift through life in a daydream, missing the true richness and joy that life has to offer." When the speaker has finished we gather around to sing a few inspirational songs. You and I stand at the back of the group and hum along since we have forgotten most of the words.

Louis Jenkins, "The Speaker" from *Just Above Water*



"I'm doing some reorganizing—are there any of your possessions that you want to keep?"

Monday Morning

It is good to be last not first,
Pending the present distress;
It is good to hunger and thirst,
So it be for righteousness.
It is good to spend and be spent,
It is good to watch and to pray:
Life and Death make a goodly Lent
So it leads us to Easter Day.

"Lent" by Christina Rossetti (1830–94)

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the heart of the Christian gospel, and Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. The practice of a forty-day preparation period began in the Christian church during the third and fourth centuries. The number forty carries biblical significance based on the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness and Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through holy week, not counting Sundays (which are reserved for celebratory worship). In practice, many congregations choose to focus Sunday worship on the themes of repentance and renewal.

The Worship Sourcebook

Beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things.**

Philippians 4:8

λογίζομαι

logizomai, *log-id'-zom-ahee*;

to take an inventory, i.e. estimate (literally or figuratively) — conclude, (ac-)count (of), + esteem, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think on. Based on the Greek word **λόγος** *logos* — word, communication, speech



"Think on These Things" — RWH, 2020

Do not entertain the notion that you ought to advance in your prayer. If you do, you will only find you have put on the brake instead of the acceleration. All real progress in spiritual things comes gently, imperceptibly, and is the work of God. Our crude efforts spoil it. Know yourself for the childish, limited and dependent soul you are. Remember that the only growth which matters happens without our knowledge and that trying to stretch ourselves is both dangerous and silly. Think of the Infinite Goodness, never of your own state.

Evelyn Underhill

The Gospel cannot happen in your head alone. You never think yourself into a new way of living. You invariably live yourself into a new way of thinking. The gospel is about relationship and lifestyle. Unless there is someplace on this earth where it's happening between you and another person, I don't believe you have any criterion to judge whether it's happening at all. Unless you're in right relationship with at least one other person on this earth, unless there is some place you can give and receive love, I don't think you have any reason to think you're living the gospel.

Is there at least one place in your life where you are giving and receiving love? If it happens in one place, it can happen everywhere. If you are truly capable of loving one person, you're capable of loving more than one, and eventually even your enemy, and finally all. Love is one piece. Love is all or nothing. You either express love or you don't. The flow is either outward or it is inward.

Richard Rohr, *The Good News According to Luke: Spiritual Reflections*

I have studied many times
The marble which was chiseled for me
A boat with a furled sail at rest in a harbor.
In truth it pictures not my destination But
my life.

For love was offered me and I shrank from its disillusionment;
Sorrow knocked at my door, but I was afraid; Ambition called
to me, but I dreaded the chances. And now I know that we
must lift the sail And catch the winds of destiny Wherever
they drive the boat.

To put meaning in one's life may end in madness,
But life without meaning is the torture Of
restlessness and vague desire It is a boat longing
for the sea and yet afraid.

Edgar Lee Masters, *Spoon River Anthology*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without whose help labour is useless, without whose light search is vain, invigorate my thinking and direct my enquiries, that I may by due diligence and right discernment establish myself and others in thy holy Faith. Take not, O Lord, thy Holy Spirit from me, let not evil thoughts have dominion in my mind. Let me not linger in ignorance and doubt, but enlighten and support me for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Samuel Johnson (1709–84)