

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prayer in Silence

Prelude

Cavalleria Rusticana

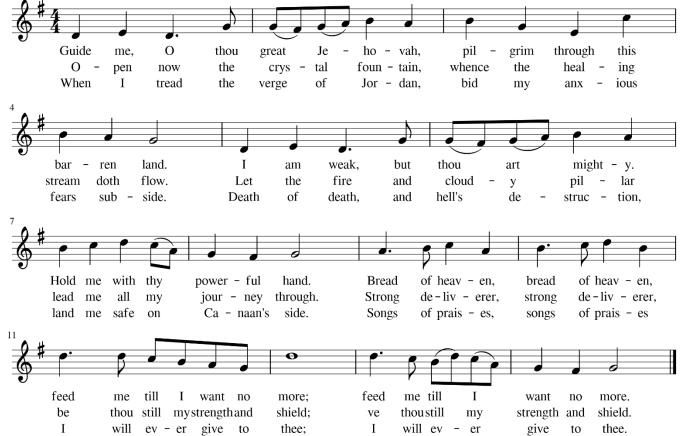
Mascagni/Johnson

10:30am

Prayer in Words

*Hymn #65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



Call to Confession — based on Isaiah 43

Let us worship God,
who has done great things in our lives.

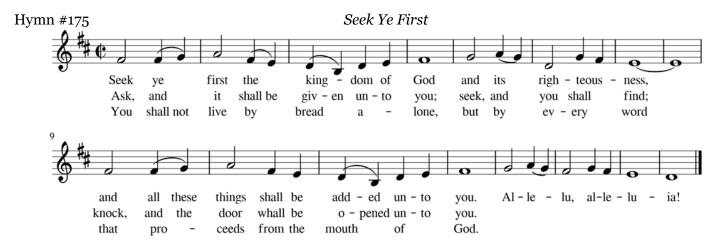
We rejoice in our God, who made a way

through the deserts of this broken world.
Let us worship God in all our praying.
God has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.
We are the people God has formed through Christ.
We worship God alone, and we rejoice in God's goodness!
Let us confess our sins in spirit and in truth.
We trust God for the grace that saves us.
Hear our prayers of confession, O Lord ...

Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness — based on Ezekiel 36 The Lord God has said: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh, to love.

Brothers and sisters: In Christ our Healer, all God's promises are "Yes." Hear the good news: **Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!**



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."

*Hymn #724

LISTENING

Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

Scripture	Matthew 5:21-30	
Interlude	Aria	Bach/Fitzgerald
Scripture	Philippians 4:1-9	
Sermon	Lent: Think about whatever is PURE and PLEASING	
	DEPARTING	

O Jesus, I Have Promised



*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

Mar. 14, 4th Sunday in Lent – Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; 1 Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21 Mar. 21, 5th Sunday in Lent – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

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

Easter Lilies

We prayerfully and joyously celebrate our opportunity to gather for worship this Easter after it was so strangely disrupted last year. Because we will be gathering in-person (and still online) we will have potted lilies again in our sanctuary. We ask that each member of our congregation consider purchasing a potted lily for \$12 in honor, memory, or celebration of a person or occasion. Each person who plans to attend worship in person and purchases a lily will be contacted about donating and delivering their lily to another church member who is unable to attend inperson. The deadline for ordering lilies will be Sunday, March 21. We thank you for not only using this opportunity to celebrate and memorialize the gifts for which God has blessed you, but also bringing a beautiful reminder of God's love and hope to those who are unable to physically be with us.

Youth Group Updates

The time has FINALLY come! We are excited to announce that youth activities will begin this month and we have some great things planned! We will be doing a lot of fun, but meaningful, projects, so mark your calendars. The first one will be on March 28 and we will meet directly after worship. Lunch will be provided and the activity will follow. The other dates are April 11 (after worship), April 25, May 16, and May 23 (times to be determined). We will plan out the rest of the year later this spring. We look forward to seeing everyone on March 28!!

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 8:00-1:00 478-477-6646

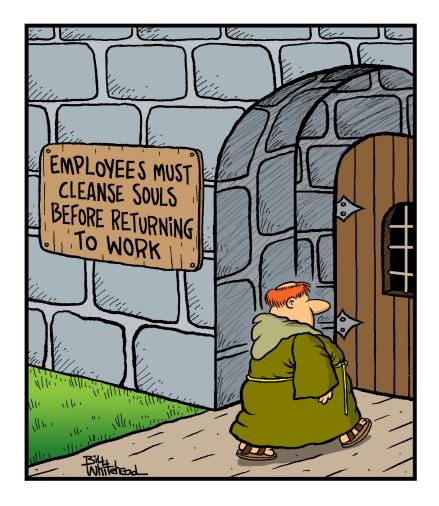
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565 WII

565 WIMBISH RD. MACON, GA 31210

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith, 1984



Monday Morning

Don't worry over anything whatever; tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer, and the peace of God which transcends human understanding, will keep constant guard over your hearts and minds as they rest in Christ Jesus. Here is a last piece of advice. If you believe in goodness and if you value the approval of God, fix your minds on the things which are holy and right and pure and beautiful and good. Model your conduct on what you have learned from me, on what I have told you and shown you, and you will find the God of peace will be with you.

The New Testament in Modern English by J. B. Phillips, 1972



The Apostle Paul by Melozzo da Forti fragment of a larger Italian fresco image

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

ἁγνός

hagnos, hag-nos'; properly, clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, modest, perfect: chaste, clean, pure

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Jesus, Matthew 5:8

The insight that relates us to God arises from purity of heart, not from clearness of intellect.

Oswald Chambers

Still to the lowly soul He doth Himself impart, And for His cradle and His throne Chooseth the pure in heart.

John Keble

προσφιλής

prosphiles, pros-fee-lace'; from a compound of *toward* and *to be a friend*; friendly towards, i.e. acceptable, lovely, beautiful

God passes through the thicket to the world, and wherever God's glance falls God turns all things to beauty.

St. John of the Cross

God called all God had made good. We affirm that the universe exists by the power of God's Word and Spirit. God has chosen to give it reality out of the love we have come to know in Christ.We declare that the universe of matter, energy, and life is God's good creation in all its parts. Even though evil has emerged within God's creation, we may work and play in it and explore it with wonder and joy.

Presbyterian A Declaration of Faith, 1977

Very early in the Judeo-Christian tradition there is a split between the Exodus tradition, which I believe is the mainline tradition of full liberation, and the parallel tradition that soon develops in Leviticus and Numbers, which is called the "priestly" tradition. If you read these two books, they have none of the drama of Exodus, but reflect what happens when the priests take over and try to organize and control the inner experience and avoid the outer implications. About eight centuries before Christ we finally meet the spiritual geniuses—the Jewish prophets—who try to link the two traditions: inner God experience and outer work for justice and truth. We continue to have halfhearted divisions-in the form of Right or Left, liberal or conservative, establishment or disestablishment, contemplative or activist-down to our time. They really do need one another, but in most of history, as in Judaism, the priestly tradition has clearly been in control. The prophets are always marginalized. We always need the prophets to balance out the priests, but they are not just pushed off to the side, but usually killed, according to Jesus (Matthew 23:29-31). Which is exactly what happens to Jesus himself, with the full cooperation of the priestly class. How can we miss this message?

Richard Rohr — "The Gospel Call to Compassionate Action"

Pity the beautiful, the dolls, and the dishes, the babes with big daddies granting their wishes.

Pity the pretty boys, the hunks, and Apollos, the golden lads whom success always follows.

The hotties, the knock-outs, the tens out of ten, the drop-dead gorgeous, the great leading men.

Pity the faded, the bloated, the blowsy, the paunchy Adonis whose luck's gone lousy.

Pity the gods, no longer divine. Pity the night the stars lose their shine.

"Pity the Beautiful" by Dana Gioia from 99 Poems: New and Selected