



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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 Ephesians 5

Open our eyes, O God, that we may see
the glimpses of your truth you would have us see.

**Place in our hands the wonderful keys of life
that will unclasp us and set us free for living.**

Silently now we wait for you,

ready, our God, your will to discern.

Open our eyes; illuminate your path,

Spirit divine!

Open our ears, that we may hear

your voice of truth you send through your Word.

**As your wisdom and wonder falls on our ears,
everything false in our lives will disappear.**

Silently now we wait for you,

ready, our God, your way to discern.

Open our ears; speak your truth,

Spirit divine!

Hymn #451

Open My Eyes, That I May See



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der - ful key that shall un - clasp and
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil - dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

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

God of such great mercy,
you sent Jesus your Christ to seek and save the lost.
We confess that we have often strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.
How often we are misled by pride,
for we see ourselves pure
when we are stained
and great when we are small.
We have often failed in love,
neglected justice,
and ignored your truth.
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.
Return us to paths of righteousness
through Jesus Christ, our Savior,
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

Psalm 23

Remembering God's Law

You shall have no other gods before me.
For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever!
You shall not make for yourself an idol.
In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God,
for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—
the fruit of lips that confess his name.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom,
and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.
Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land
the Lord your God is giving you.
Children, honor your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
You shall not murder.
Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
You shall not commit adultery.
You are not your own; you were bought at a price.
Therefore honor God with your body.
You shall not steal.
Those who have been stealing must steal no longer,
but must work, doing something useful with their hands,
so that they may have something to share with those in need.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things
grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

Passing the Peace

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

LISTENING

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-41

Ephesians 5:8-14

Sermon

Christ will shine on you

DEPARTING

Hymn

#314

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

church gath - ered to - day.

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!

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. If you indicate that you are a first-time guest, we want to give you a gift and some information about our church to say "Welcome!" Large Print Hymnals and bulletins are available. Ask an usher where these items are located.

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

Sermons Available Online

Visit our website at northminstermacon.org and you can listen anywhere.

Lectionary Readings

March 22, 4th Sunday in Lent – 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

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

Please note recent cancellations or postponements of events.

- Winter Women's Bible Study has been cancelled. This group will begin meeting again at another time, yet to be determined. Please contact Jeanne Roddenberry (jerodden93@gmail.com) if you would like to be placed on a communications list for this group.
- All youth gatherings have been cancelled until April 5th. Any necessary changes to this schedule will be publicized. Please contact Ann Weaver (ann.weaver1147@att.net) if you would like to be placed on a communications list for this group.
- 5th Sunday Lunch, planned for March 29th, has been cancelled. We will fellowship for the 5th Sunday May 31st.
- 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 or 478-477-6646)

Office Hours

This upcoming week (March 23-27) office hours will remain 9-1 daily. Jennifer will have access to both email and phone calls outside of these hours.

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