



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2020
10:30am

GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prelude

Deep River
Pat McCall, violin

arr. Lloyd Larson

Call to Worship - based on Isaiah 6

We have seen you lifted up, O God, high and lofty.
You have met us in our worship as Lord and King.
**“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heaven;
the whole earth is full of God’s glory.”**

In the light of your glory, we have learned to pray
“Woe is me! I am lost, for I am one with unclean lips,
and I live among a people of unclean lips.”
Yet our eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!
**“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heaven;
the whole earth is full of God’s glory.”**

Lend us your Holy Spirit yet again, O God.
“Now that mercy has touched your lips,
your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”
**“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heaven;
the whole earth is full of God’s glory.”**

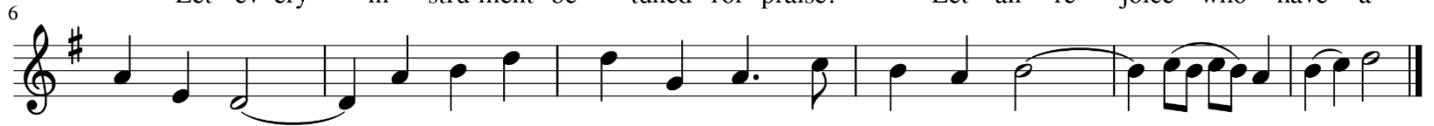
Morning Prayer

*Hymn #641

When in Our Music God Is Glorified



When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no
How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di - men - sion in the
So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and love, through cen - tu -
And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most e - vil strove a -
Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re - joice who have a



room for pride, it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!
world of sound, as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found Al - le - lu - ia!
ries of wrong, borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tounge: Al - le - lu - ia!
gainst the light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Al - le - lu - ia!
voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing al - ways: Al - le - lu - ia!

Call to Confession

Confession – based on Psalm 51

Merciful God,
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not always loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we always loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.

**In your great compassion,
cleanse us from our sin.**

**Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Do not cast us from your presence,
or take your Holy Spirit from us.**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

[silent prayers]

Assurance of Mercy

*Response #606

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Signs of Peace

LISTENING

Announcements and Reminders

Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Interlude

Londonderry Air

arr. James Michael Stevens

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 6:1-8
Luke 5:17-26

Sermon

Worship: A whole lot of WOW ... a little bit of WOE

DEPARTING

*Hymn #821

My Life Flows On

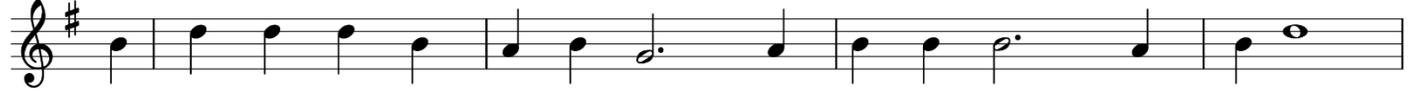


My life flows on in end-less song, a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion.
Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I hear the clear, though far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

10 Refrain



No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

15



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

*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

*Charge and 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



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

October 25, 21st Sunday after Pentecost – Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

November 1, All Saint's Day – Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

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; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; John Hurst; John Geerlings; Grace Goodwin; Mary Ann Ellis; Kathy Wheeler; Andy Weaver; Shelby Duffy

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

Small Group Get-Togethers

Everyone is invited to join one of our fall small group get-togethers. These are being hosted in both virtual and in-person formats with the goal of making sure everyone can be included. Please see the schedule below and contact Jennifer in the church office at 478-477-6646 or admin@northminstermacon.org to reserve a spot.

- Friday, October 30, 6:30pm at Northminster – Dinner provided
- Monday, November 2, 7:00pm via Zoom (Host: Emily Brown)
- Tuesday, November 3, 7:00pm via Conference Call (Host: Emily Brown)
- Wednesday, November 4, 7:30pm via Zoom (Host: Al Fatkin)
- Sunday, November 8, 4:30pm at Jeanne Roddenberry's – Dinner provided
- Wednesday, November 11, 5:30pm at Northminster – Dinner provided

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-Wed & Fri 9:00-1:00

Monday Morning

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the one who was paralyzed—“I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.” Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen strange things today.”

Luke 5

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God’s claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God’s service in the world.

Presbyterian Directory for Worship

Let our mouth be filled with thy praise, O Lord, that we may sing of thy glory, because thou hast counted us worthy to partake of thy holy, divine, immortal and life-giving mysteries: preserve us in thy holiness, that we may learn of thy righteousness all day long.

Hallelujah,
hallelujah,
hallelujah.

St. John Chrysostom (347–407)

To know God is to be changed by God;
true knowledge of God leads to worship.

John Calvin

Authentic Christian worship, like the Word of God on which it is centered, is living, breathing, changing, vibrant, vital, refreshingly unpredictable, and always transformative. The blessing of worship, the life-changing experience of encountering and praising the Father, Son, and Spirit, is available to disciples of Jesus every time we gather. This blessing is not dependent on our resources, the beauty of our location, the approval of our culture, or any other temporal circumstance. It is a gift from God.

Paul Detterman

Left to myself, the God I want is a god who will give me what I want. He — or more likely it — will be a projection of my own desires. At the grosser level, this will lead me to one of the more obvious pagan gods or goddesses, who offer their devotees money, sex, or power (as Marx, Freud, and Nietzsche pointed out). All idols started out life as a god somebody wanted. Nobody falls down on their face before the god they wanted. Nobody trembles at the word of a home-made god. Nobody goes out with fire in their belly to heal the sick, to clothe the naked, to teach the ignorant, to feed the hungry because of a god they wanted. They are more likely to stay at home with their feet up.

N.T. Wright, British New Testament scholar

Why do people in church seem like cheerful, brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute? ... Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking God may draw us to where we can never return."

Annie Dillard — *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters*, 1982

When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
When utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
Alleluia!

"When in Our Music God is Glorified" — Fred Pratt Green, 1971

Before the protest, self-purification.
Before the preaching, prayer.

Whatever you do—wade into a violent
crowd like Tutu,
walk across the bridge and face men
brandishing billy sticks,

stick a rose in the barrel of a rifle,
ride the bus with Rosa in what some call
the wrong seat,

ask uncomfortable questions, demand
candid answers,
camp out for weeks on the bankers'
lawn,

hold hands and sing in a circle,
make signs for the march,

speak Gospel truth to dispel the
ignorance of silence,
comfort the troubled, trouble the
water—whatever you do,

be sure to spend time in the garden.
Examine yourself.

Turn to the light within.
Recall we're all God's good children,

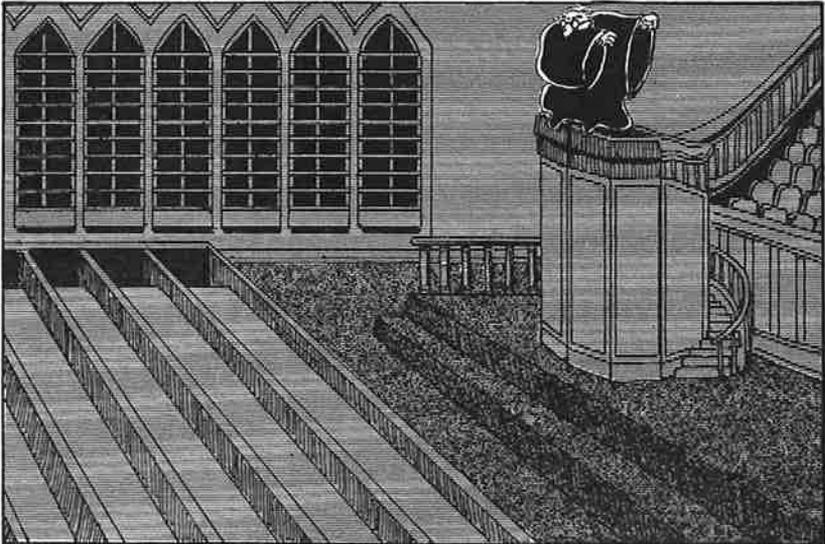
beloved and longing
for the wholeness that is divine

justice, mercy, grace,
and peace.

Let us pray.

"Sing a new Song" is an exciting [Biblical] permission for us. The gospel is not limited to any generation, to any tribe or nation or tongue. In every age, in every place, the Spirit of Christ comes to offer salvation. Whatever our worship style or tradition, the flow of words in a given service gathers up both old words and new words—the balance varies, but both are always present. We read the Scriptures aloud. We use words from other times and places, perhaps in a traditional liturgy, perhaps in a song or prayer from the last generation, from another continent, or from a composer in the next town. The rest of the words in a service are, shall we say, locally grown. How wonderful, as God welcomes our praises and petitions in every language, even the unspoken language of the heart.

Darryl Hart and John Muether
Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry



FEW SUSPECTED THAT THE PASTOR OFTEN STAYED AFTER EVERYONE HAD GONE HOME, PUT ON THE BIG BLACK ROBE, AND PLAYED "CAPED AVENGER."