

# NORTHMINSTER

## *Presbyterian Church*

January 31, 2021

10:30am

### GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prelude

*Reflection on "Beach Spring"*  
Pat McCall, violin

arr. Anne Krentz /organ

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!

**We will give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart,  
in the fellowship of the faithful, in the congregation.**

Great are the works of the Lord,  
pondered by all who delight in them.

**Full of honor and majesty is God's good work,  
and God's righteousness endures forever.**

God has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

**The Lord provides sustenance for those God loves.**

The Lord is ever mindful of his promises.

Morning Prayer

\*Hymn #41

O Worship the King



O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove! O grate - ful - ly  
O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the  
The earth with its store of won - ders un - told, Al - might - y, your  
Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the  
6 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in you do we  
sing God's power and God's love: our shield and de - fend - er, the  
light, whose can - o - py space, whose char - iots of wrath the deep  
power has found - ed of old; es - tab - lished it fast by a  
air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it de -  
11 trust, nor find you to fail; your mer - cies, how ten - der, how  
An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
thun - der - clouds form; and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.  
change - less de - cree, and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
scends to the plain, and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
firm to the end, our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

Call to Confession — based on Isaiah 30

**In repentance and rest is our salvation,  
in quietness and trust is our strength.  
The Lord longs to be gracious to us.  
The Lord rises to show us compassion.  
For the Lord is God of justice.  
Blessed are all who wait for God.**

Prayers of Confession

Father of Mercy,  
you tell us in your Word that whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

**We confess that we have frequently relaxed our faith.  
We have often allowed ourselves to become cynical,  
and our cynicism can boil over  
with slander, criticism, prayerlessness, and pessimism.  
How easily we've allowed ourselves  
to crumple under the stresses of our lives.  
Forgive us for our smallness of faith.  
In your mercy, hear our prayers,  
for Jesus' sake ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Interlude

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*  
NPC Bell Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

\*Signs of Peace

**LISTENING**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Scripture

Mark 1:21-28

Hymn #458

*Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet*

Refrain

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. Thy word is a  
 lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path. When I feel a - fraid, and I  
 think I've lost my way, still you're there right be - side me. Noth-ing will I fear as  
 long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

To Refrain

Scripture

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Sermon

**Diamonds in the Rough:** God Uses Prophets

**DEPARTING**

\*Hymn #69

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry. All who dwell in  
 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain. I have wept for  
 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a  
 dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their  
 love of them. They turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for  
 feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be  
 dark-ness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 love a - lone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 sat - is - fied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?  
 Refrain  
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders

\*Benediction

\*Response  
Community

Northumbria

**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](mailto: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](mailto:pastorhawkins@northminstermacon.org)

### Lectionary Readings

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany – Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

### 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; 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

## 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

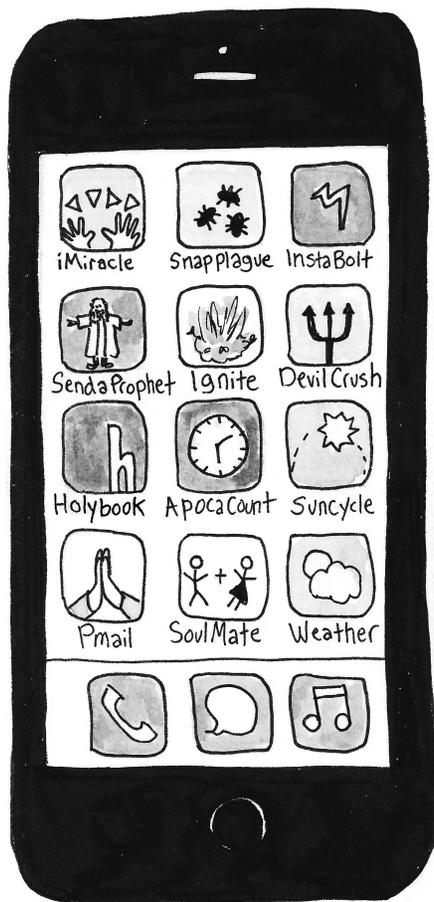
SESSION of Ruling Elders: Kari Alderman; Emily Brown; Lynn Denny; Roland Hill; Jan Hirsh; Beau Kitchens; Melissa McDougald; Charlotte Nolan; Sandra Ridgeway; Minor Vernon

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 through Friday 8:00-1:00



GOD'S PHONE

amy kurzweil

## Monday Morning

God, your God, is going to raise up a prophet for you. God will raise him up from among your kinsmen, a prophet like me. Listen obediently to him. This is what you asked God, your God, for at Horeb on the day you were all gathered at the mountain and said, "We can't hear any more from God, our God; we can't stand seeing any more fire. We'll die!"

And God said to me, "They're right; they've spoken the truth. I'll raise up for them a prophet like you from their kinsmen. I'll tell him what to say and he will pass on to them everything I command him. And anyone who won't listen to my words spoken by him, I will personally hold responsible.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The twin themes of authority and idolatry [in the Deuteronomy reading] together suggest urgent ecclesiological reflection. That is, the issue here is not the nature of the prophet, but the nature of the community to whom the prophet speaks. The nature of the church is that it must host the prophetic-Mosaic word in all its terror.

That word is often a hard one, and so both people and prophet may wish for a lesser, more palatable word. Such a temptation to tone down the word or to distort or to silence the speaker risks the whole glorious enterprise of Israel, and jeopardizes the possibility of a covenantal ethic in the world.

Texts for Preaching, Year B

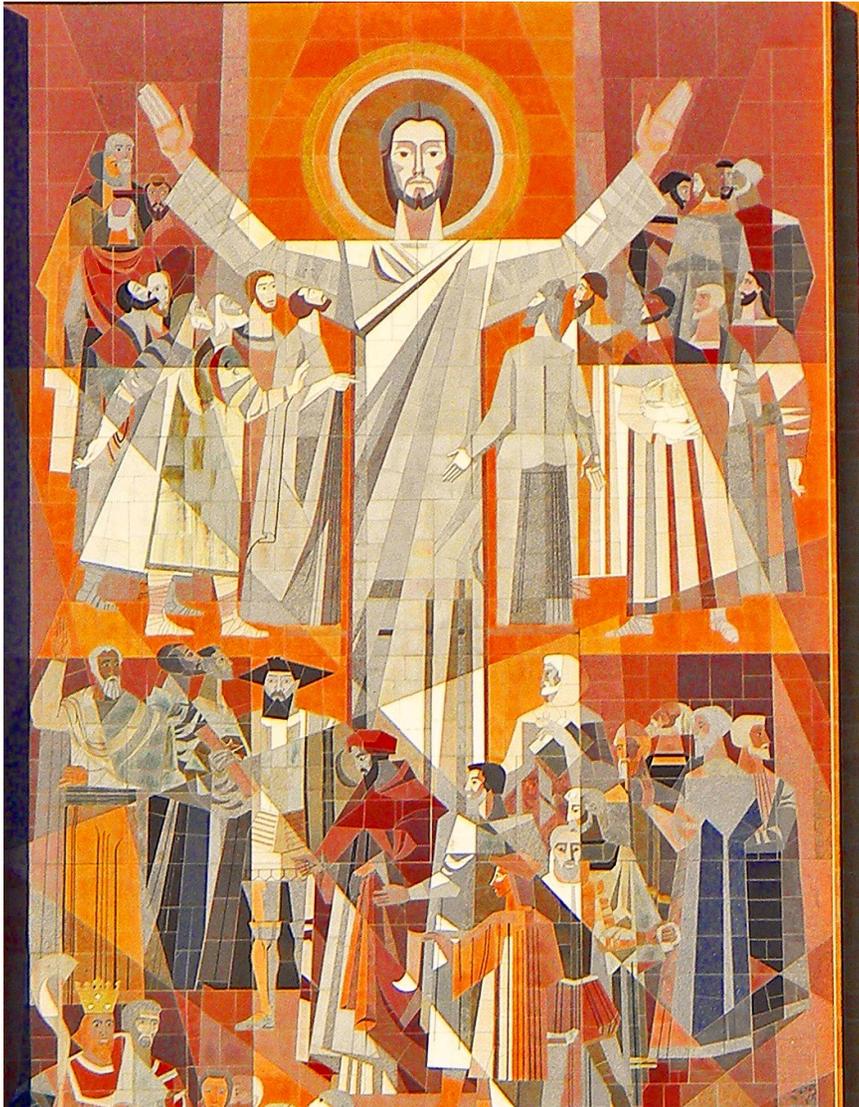
The gospel must be preached afresh and told in new ways to each generation, since every generation has its own unique questions. The gospel must constantly be forwarded to a new address, because the recipient is repeatedly changing his place of address.

Helmut Thielicke (1908-1986)

German Protestant theologian, rector of the University of Hamburg

A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what gospel is that?

Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador (1917-1980)



**Word of Life mural**, 1964  
 Millard Sheets (1907-1989)  
 University of Notre Dame

Preaching that costs nothing accomplishes nothing.

John Henry Joweti (1864-1923)  
 influential British Protestant preacher

My God, I come to learn at Your feet. You are present here; it is You who drew me to you by Your grace. I listen only to You; I believe only You. Speak; your servant is listening. Lord, I adore You, my heart loves only You; it sighs only for You. I am overwhelmed with joy before You. O eternal majesty! I come to receive everything from You, and to give myself to you completely. Send, O my God, your Holy Spirit. I surrender myself to this Spirit of love and truth. May He enlighten me today to teach me to be gentle and humble of heart. O Jesus! It is You who give me this lesson in gentleness and humility. You teach me to find my soul's rest and peace. Alas! How far I have been from seeking this Peace! I have sought it in the vain imaginations of my pride. Wretched pride, that will never taste the peace of the children of God who are gentle and humble of heart! So be it.

François Fénelon (Monseigneur François de Salignac de La Mothe-Fénelon)  
 1651–1715: French Roman Catholic archbishop, theologian, poet, writer

The people who hanged Christ never, to do them justice, accused him of being a bore — on the contrary, they thought him too dynamic to be safe. It has been left for later generations to muffle up that shattering personality and surround him with an atmosphere of tedium. We have efficiently pared the claws of the Lion of Judah, certified him "meek and mild" and recommended him as a fitting household pet for pale curates and pious old ladies.

Dorothy L. Sayers — *Letters to a Diminished Church: Passionate Arguments for the Relevance of Christian Doctrine*

Holiness is God's gift to the Church in Jesus Christ. Through the love of Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God takes away the sin of the world. The holiness of the Church comes from Christ who sets it apart to bear witness to his love, and not from the purity of its doctrine or the righteousness of its actions. Because in Christ the Church is holy, the Church, its members, and those in its ordered ministries strive to lead lives worthy of the Gospel we proclaim. In gratitude for Christ's work of redemption, we rely upon the work of God's Spirit through Scripture and the means of grace to form every believer and every community for this holy living. We confess the persistence of sin in our corporate and individual lives. At the same time, we also confess that we are forgiven by Christ and called again and yet again to strive for the purity, righteousness, and truth revealed to us in Jesus Christ and promised to all people in God's new creation.

Presbyterian *Book of Order* F-1.0302