



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

10:30am

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

Prayer in Words

*Hymn #65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

4
bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y.
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

7
Hold me with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

11
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; ve thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

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!**

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 — 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.”

*Signs of Peace

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

*Hymn #724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
O let me feel thee near me! THE world is ev - er near:
O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

5
be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

10
I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

15
nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

*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

All Rights Reserved, License # 1244003



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 in-person. 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

WWW.NORTHMINSTERMACON.ORG

478-477-6646

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

ἀγνός

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

prospheiles, 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*