



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prayer in Silence

Prelude

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

arr. John Innes

Prayer in Words

*Hymn #169

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

4

8

lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
them, with - out a word rise up and fol - low thee.
of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love!
or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of thy peace.
earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!

Call to Confession — based on Hebrews 12

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him endured the cross,
enduring its shame, and who sat down at the right hand of God.
Let us consider him who endured such opposition from sinful people,
so that we ourselves will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hear now our prayers of confession, O Lord ...

Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness — based on Psalm 96

Those I love, I will deliver, says the Lord.
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them.
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them and show them my salvation.
Receive the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Hymn #175

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word

9
and all these things shall be added unto you. Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!
knock, and the door whall be o-pened unto you.
that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

Remembering God's Law — based on the Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods before me.
For from God and through God and to God are all things.

To God 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.

**Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—
the fruit of lips that confess God's 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, obey 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.

*Signs of Peace

LISTENING

Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

Scripture

Matthew 11:1-19

Interlude

Ave Verum Corpus
Rebecca Layfield, Soprano

W. A. Mozart

Scripture

Philippians 4:1-9

Sermon

Lent: Think about whatever is COMMENDABLE

DEPARTING

*Hymn #835

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

The musical score consists of two staves of music in G clef, 4/4 time, and B-flat key signature. The first staff begins with a dotted half note followed by a series of eighth notes. The second staff begins with a quarter note followed by a series of eighth notes. The lyrics are as follows:

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,
I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

5 dai - ly walk-ing close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Refrain
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. Refrain

*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



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. 21, 5th Sunday in Lent – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Mar 28, Palm Sunday – Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 4:1-15

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 – Final Sunday to order

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. 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!!

Special Offering – One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities. You may donate online, by mail, or in person. Special offering envelopes will be provided in your bulletin on Easter morning (April 4 – the final day of collection).

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

You play your tune.
 Crowds surge past.
 Most give nothing,
 not even a glance.
 You have the attention
 of a few pavement people:
 a youth with a skinny dog
 who always sits in that doorway,
 a woman with her life in paper bags.

Christ the busker,
 I've got your tune in my head
 but head music is not enough.
 Help me to be a busker, too.

Janet Lee



"I WISH HE COULD HAVE BEEN HERE TO HEAR ALL THOSE WONDERFUL LIES THEY TOLD ABOUT HIM."

Monday Morning

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

εὔφημος

euphemos, yoo'-fay-mos — from the adjective *good* and the noun *rumor, fame*; therefore: well spoken of, good report, reputable, **commendable**

i.e. admirable, praiseworthy, laudable, estimable, meritorious, creditable, exemplary, exceptional, noteworthy, notable, honorable, worthy, deserving, respectable, sterling, fine, excellent; worthy of commendation, worthy of admiration

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:9-10

The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident.

Charles Lamb

How far that little candle throws his beams!
 So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

William Shakespeare

Do all the good you can,
 By all the means you can,
 In all the ways you can,
 In all the places you can,
 At all the times you can,
 To all the people you can,
 As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

The Church is called to be Christ's faithful evangelist:

going into the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all he has commanded;

demonstrating by the love of its members for one another and by the quality of its common life the new reality in Christ; sharing in worship, fellowship, and nurture, practicing a deepened life of prayer and service under the guidance of the Holy Spirit;

participating in God's activity in the world through its life for others by healing and reconciling and binding up wounds, ministering to the needs of the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the powerless, engaging in the struggle to free people from sin, fear, oppression, hunger, and injustice, giving itself and its substance to the service of those who suffer, sharing with Christ in the establishing of his just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world.

The Church is called to undertake this mission even at the risk of losing its life, trusting in God alone as the author and giver of life, sharing the gospel, and doing those deeds in the world that point beyond themselves to the new reality in Christ.

Presbyterian Book of Order

O Lord Jesus Christ, great shepherd of the sheep, who seeks those that are gone astray, binds up those that are broken and heals those that are sick: bless, we beseech you, all efforts that are made to convert souls unto you. Open the deaf ears of the wandering, that they may hear the words which belong unto their peace; and grant that those whom you raise to newness of life may through your grace persevere unto the end, of your mercy, blessed Lord, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit be all praise and glory.

Richard Meux Benson (1824-1915)
founder of the Society of St. John the Evangelist

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy Spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.

Mary Sumner



"Commendable Things" by RWH
Augusta, Georgia, 2020

Oh, is the water sweet and cool,
Gentle and brown, above the pool?
And laughs the immortal river still
Under the mill, under the mill?
Say, is there Beauty yet to find?
And Certainty? and Quiet kind?
Deep meadows yet, for to forget
The lies, and truths, and pain? ... oh! yet
Stands the Church clock at ten to three?
And is there honey still for tea?

Rupert Brooke (1887-1915)
"The Old Vicarage, Grantchester"