



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prelude

Crown Him with Many Crowns
Susan Van Wick, french horn

arr. Stephen Bulla

Call to Worship

This is the good news—
the grave is empty;
Christ is risen.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

This is the good news—
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

This is the good news—
once we were no people;
now we are God's people.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

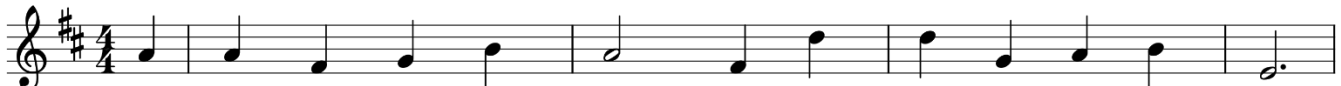
Christ is our peace,
the indestructible peace
we now share with each other.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Morning Prayer

*Hymn #233

The Day of Resurrection!




The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it our a - broad,
Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;

5



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

10



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

15



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Almighty and faithful God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.

**We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.**

**We overlook the poor and the hungry
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak
and abuse the creation you made.**


Forgive us, God of mercy.

**Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

Hear now our prayers ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 Come let us praise the liv - in God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and his ris - en.
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

Signs of Peace

LISTENING

Prayer of the People

Scripture

1 John 1:1-2:2

Interlude

Song of April

Georges Bizet

Scripture

John 20:19-31

Sermon

He showed them his hands and his side

Sermon Notes


What can we say about the resurrection in light of John 20?

1. Peace is what the resurrection looks like against the backdrop of our fears.
 2. The risen Jesus is no less than his former body, including (especially) his wounds.
 3. And yet his body is fundamentally transformed and his wounds are radically eclipsed. No human locks prevent his presence; no doubt or death masks his identity (or ours).
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SENDING


*Hymn #238

Thine Is the Glory




Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son; end - less is the
Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
No more we doubt thee, glo - rous Prince of life! Life is naught with -

6




vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let the church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife. Make us more than con - querors

11



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes where thy bod - y lay.
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth; death hath lost its sting.
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan to thy home a - bove.

17 Refrain



Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

Affirmation of Faith

Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

*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

April 11, 2nd Sunday of Easter – Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 18, 3rd Sunday of Easter – Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

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

Youth – today following worship

The youth will meet today immediately following the worship service for lunch and a service project activity in the fellowship hall. Our next youth gathering will be Sunday, April 25th, time TBD.

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

Put your hand,
Thomas,
on the crawling head,
of a child,
imprisoned,
in a cot,
in Romania.
Place your finger,
Thomas,
on the list of those,
who have disappeared
in Chile.
Stroke the cheek,
Thomas,
of the little girl,
sold into prostitution,
in Thailand.
Touch, Thomas,
the gaping wounds
of my world.
Feel, Thomas,
the primal wound,
of my people.
Reach out your hands,
Thomas,
and place them at the side of the poor.
Grasp my hands, Thomas,
and believe,
when you feel me
in the world's pain,
and in the world's glory.

“Thomas” by Kate McIlhagga

How do you get to heaven?

“God is dressed up kind of like a ghost. And at the funeral when there’s flowers all around you, he’ll take you up with him when nobody’s looking.”

Dandi Mackall, *Kids Say the Greatest Things about God*

compiled by RWH for Northminster Macon — week of 2021-04-11 — Easter 2

Monday Morning

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20



“Christ Shows Himself to Thomas”
tile mosaic by Rowan and Irene LeCompte
Washington National Cathedral

In the Risen Christ, God reveals the final state of all reality. God forbids us to accept “as-it-is” in favor of “what-God’s-love-can-make-it.” To believe in Resurrection means to cross limits and transcend boundaries. Because of the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus we realistically can believe that tomorrow can be better than today. We are not bound by any past. There is a future that is created by God, and much bigger than our own efforts. We should not just believe in some kind of survival or immortality or just “life after death”—but Resurrection, an utterly new creation, a transformation into Love that is promised as something that can happen in this world and is God’s final chapter for all of history. That is why a true Christian has to be an optimist. In fact, if you are not an optimist, you haven’t got it yet.

Richard Rohr, *Radical Grace: Daily Meditations*, Day 159

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour.
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

“Christ Has Risen while Earth Slumbers”
by John L Bell and Graham Maule

The resurrection is forgiveness: not a decree of forgiveness, but the presence of gratuity as a person. The simple fact of Jesus' appearance to his disciples, as soon as they had recovered from their consternation at the presence of what was quite outside their experience, was the presence of forgiveness. Their sorrow, and guilt, and confusion, could be loosed within them, because the focus of their sorrow and guilt and confusion had come back from right outside it, and was not affected by it. There was no element in the presence of the risen Jesus of any reciprocating by Jesus of what had been done to him. If there had been his presence would not have been outside our human tit-for-tat, it would not have been gratuitous, and it would not have been forgiving.

James Alison, *Knowing Jesus*, 1993

We are certain that Jesus lives.
He lives as God with us,
touching all of human life with the presence of God.
He lives as one of us with God.
Because he shares our humanity
and has bound us to himself in love,
we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.
We declare that Jesus is Lord.
His resurrection is a decisive victory
over the powers that deform and destroy human life.
His lordship is hidden.
The world appears to be dominated
by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule.
But his lordship is real.
It demands our loyalty and sets us free
from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty
now belongs to Jesus Christ
in every sphere of life.
Jesus is Lord'
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.

from the Presbyterian *Declaration of Faith*

“Dammit Morpheus, not everyone believes what you believe.”

Morpheus: “My beliefs do not require them to.”

from the motion picture *Matrix Reloaded*