



# NORTHMINSTER

## *Presbyterian Church*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

April 18, 2021

10:30am

### GATHERING

Welcome

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

Prelude

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  
Pat McCall, violin

arr. Lloyd Larson

Call to Worship

— based on Romans 14:8; 1 Corinthians 15:54-55; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 5:15, 17; Ephesians 5:8-10; Colossians 2:12  
Christ died for all, in order that they who are alive may live no longer for themselves  
but for him who died for them and rose again.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If, then, any are in Christ, they are a new creation;  
the former things have passed away: behold, they are made new.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us such hope through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

For God, who commanded light to shine out of darkness,  
has shone in our hearts, to give enlightenment concerning  
the knowledge of the glory of God, shining on the face of Christ Jesus.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us an enlightenment through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the light of life through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Walk, then, as children of light, for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and justice and truth,  
and test what is well pleasing to God.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us call of love through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

For if we live, we live to the Lord, or if we die, we die to the Lord.

**Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.**

You were buried together with Christ in baptism,  
and in him also you rose again through faith in the working of God who raised him from the dead.

**Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.**

“Death is swallowed up in victory!

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

**Thanks be to God, who has given us  
the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Morning Prayer

\*Hymn #248

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*



Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

5



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

9



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

13



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un-known.  
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

**CONFESSING**

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**God forgive.**

When the risks of discipleship are high,  
and we are nowhere to be found:

**God forgive.**

When we wash our hands of responsibility:

**God forgive.**

When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors  
and seek to buy cheap freedom with silver:

**God forgive.**

When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth,  
or prejudice keeps us from believing it:

**God forgive.**

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God,  
our sin is exposed,  
and your grace is revealed.

**Tender God,**

**raise us in your love so that, with joy,  
we may witness to your awesome deeds,  
in the name of Jesus, the risen one.**

**Hear now our prayers ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #243

*Be Not Afraid*

Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!

Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!

Signs of Peace

**LISTENING**

Prayers of the People

Hymn #246

*Christ Is Alive!*

verses 1-3

Christ is a-live! Let Chris-tians sing. The cross stands  
 Christ is a-live! No lon-ger bound to dis-tant  
 In ev-ery in-sult, rift, and war where col-or,  
 emp-ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal-se-tine, but sav-ing, heal-ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di-vide, Christ suf-fers still, yet  
 prais-es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev-er die.  
 here and now, and touch-ing ev-ery place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e-ven hope has died.

Scripture

1 John 1:1-2:2

Interlude

*Deep River*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Scripture

Luke 24:36-48

Sermon

“Make up our defects with his sweet art.”

\*Hymn #246

*Christ Is Alive!*

Wom-en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 Christ is a-live, and comes to bring good news to  
 Spir-it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev-ery age, till earth and sky and  
 life, the truth, re-vealed in Je-sus, freed for all.  
 o-cean ring with joy, with jus-tice, love, and praise.

## SENDING

### Affirmation 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.

### Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith

**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. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

### \*Benediction

### \*Response

**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.**

Northumbria Community

### 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

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

April 25, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

### 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

Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; James C Watwood; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine

### Lunch on the Lawn – Today!

We're excited for an opportunity to celebrate spring and gather on the lawn for a church-wide lunch today, immediately following the service. If you did not bring you lunch, please feel free to do a local carry-out order and bring it back to fellowship with us.

## 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

## Monday Morning



“Jesus of the Bayou”  
Lauren Wright Pittman  
2014

While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.” They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, “Don’t be upset, and don’t let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it’s really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn’t have muscle and bone like this.” As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn’t believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

Luke 24, *The Message*

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen.  
Sing his praise without delays,  
Who takes thee by the hand,  
that thou likewise with him may'st rise;  
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,  
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.  
Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part with all thy art.  
The cross taught all wood to resound his name,  
    who bore the same.  
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key  
Is the best to celebrate this most high day.  
Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song pleasant and long;  
Or since all music is but three parts vied and multiplied.  
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,  
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

“Easter” by George Herbert (1593-1633)  
Welsh-born poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England

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The Christian fellowship was not a society of perfect people.

The struggle between the old way of life and the new was severe. Yet the Spirit produced among followers of Jesus love, joy, peace, and victories in the battle against evil.

We believe the Holy Spirit works today whenever believers grow toward maturity in Christ. As long as we live we struggle with sin, but the Spirit's presence assures us God will complete what he has begun in us.

The early Christians recognized a diversity of abilities and functions as gifts of the Spirit.

Some were tempted to use these gifts to serve their own needs and ambitions, to form elite groups who looked down on others. But the gifts were given for the common good, to build up the community in love and to equip it for its mission in the world.

We are convinced that the Holy Spirit still calls people to various offices in the church and gives diverse gifts to believers.

We are to use them to speak and embody plainly the gospel of Christ in the world.

No gift is of value without love.

The Spirit created readiness for the gospel where the first Christians least expected it. The Spirit often thwarted their plans and led them in new directions.

They could not coerce or restrict the Spirit.

We affirm the Spirit's freedom.

The Holy Spirit works in the church but not on our terms or under our control. The Holy Spirit works beyond the church even among those we suspect or scorn.

from the *Presbyterian Declaration of Faith*, 1977

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