



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

7th Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Welcome

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

Morning Prayer

Prelude

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
Pat McCall, violin

arr. Gary Lanier

Call to Worship — based on Revelation 4:2-11

The prophet John saw a vision of the saints of God
gathered around God's throne
and singing praises to God's name:

**“Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.”**

And around the throne and on each side,
the prophet saw four living creatures:
one like a lion, another like an ox,
a third living creature with a face like a human,
and a fourth like a flying eagle.
Together sang God's story:

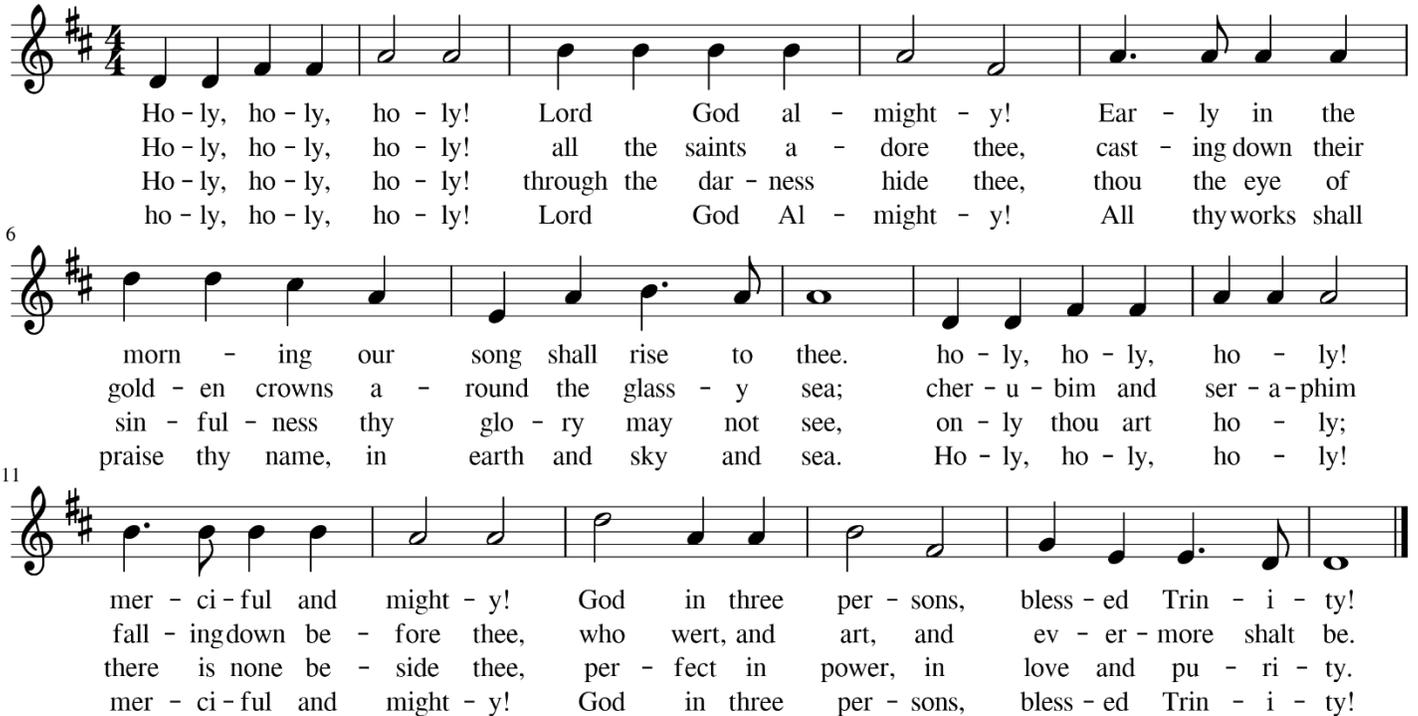
**“Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.”**

Once again we join the saints above
and all of creation below in singing praises to God.
The living God alone we worship, serve, and adore.

**“Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.”**

*Hymn #1

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God al - might - y! Ear - ly in the
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee, cast - ing down their
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! through the dar - ness hide thee, thou the eye of
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y! All thy works shall
6
morn - ing our song shall rise to thee. ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim
sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see, on - ly thou art ho - ly;
11
praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
fall - ing down be - fore thee, who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
there is none be - side thee, per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Father, we are sorry for the many times we have left your better ways
and chosen to satisfy our own temporary hungers and desires.

For the times we have hurt the members of our families or our precious friends.

Father, we have sinned. Forgive us.

For the times we were unkind and impatient with those who needed our time and concern.

Father, we have sinned. Forgive us.

For the times we were too weak to stand up for what was right
and allowed others to suffer because of our cowardice.

Father, we have sinned. Forgive us.

For the times we have refused to forgive others.

Father, we have sinned. Forgive us.

Hear now our personal prayers ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Response to Forgiveness #581

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Signs of Peace

LISTENING

Recognition of our Graduating Seniors

Question 1. What is God's purpose for our lives?

God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Question 2. How do we live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.

Question 3. How do we live for the love of God?

I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.

Question 4. How do we live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God constantly in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.

Hymn #22

God of the Sparrow

God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing stars
 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet blast
 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty grave
 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i - gal
 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the prun - ing hook
 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the lov - ing heart



How does the crea - ture say Awe How does the crea - ture say Praise.
 How does the crea - ture cry Woe How does the crea - ture cry Save.
 How does the crea - ture say Grace How does the crea - ture say Thanks.
 How does the crea - ture say Care How does the crea - ture say Life.
 How does the crea - ture say Love How does the crea - ture say Peace.
 How do your chil - dren say Joy How do your chil - dren say Home.

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:1-17

Interlude

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Kurt Kaiser

Scripture Reading

Daniel 3

Sermon

**Emma, Jackson, Joshua:
 You Will Walk (with Jesus) through the Fires**

*Hymn #69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

13 Refrain
 Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

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.

SENDING

*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

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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

Congratulations

2021 Graduates



Emma Brown graduates high school from Mount de Sales Academy. She plans to attend Young Harris College in north Georgia this fall and is excited to see what the future holds.



Josh Denny graduates high school from Mount de Sales Academy. He will attend Centre College in Danville, KY where he will play division 3 lacrosse. Josh also plans to join the National Guard.



Jackson Gleaton graduates high school from the Academy for Classical Education. He plans to attend Middle Georgia State University in Macon this fall where he will major in Biology. Jackson plans to later pursue his passion in law enforcement.



Rosie Miles graduates college from Piedmont University with a BA in Drama Education. Rosie plans to begin teaching this fall while continuing her education towards earning a MEd in Theater Education at Columbus State University.

Jose Maley graduates college from Georgia Southern with BBAs in both finance and accounting. He will begin working for an accounting firm in Atlanta in July.

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 or by scanning the QR code to the right.

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

May 16, 7th Sunday of Easter – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

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; Tommy Crow

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

Pentecost Special Offering

A foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. A special offering envelope will be provided on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd.

Youth - Lunch Today after Worship

The youth will gather outside the fellowship hall after worship to choose where they would like to meet for lunch.

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

Dan Schutte, 1981

Question 1. *What is God's purpose for our lives?*

God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Question 2. *How do we live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?*

I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.

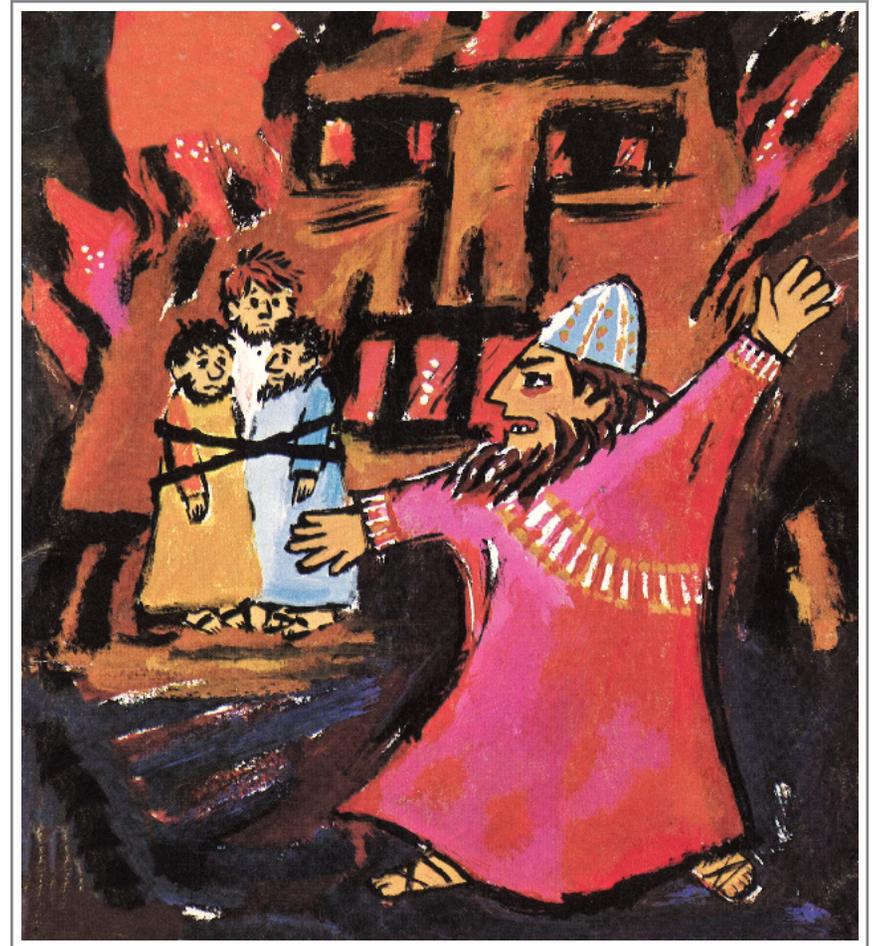
Question 3. *How do we live for the love of God?*

I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.

1998 Presbyterian Study Catechism

compiled by RWH for Northminster Macon — week of 2021-05-16

Monday Morning



“Three Who Walked in Fire” by Sally Matthews, 1968

King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

Daniel 3

The verses of Daniel 3:16-18 contain one of the great dramatic scenes of Old Testament literature. Since time immemorial this scene has served as a paradigm for every tiny group of resisters standing before tyrannical authority.

In the three Jews standing before Nebuchadnezzar one can see the forebears of Peter and the apostles before the High Priest in council, saying, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29); Paul, before Felix and Agrippa (Acts 24- 26); and above all, Jesus before Pilate (Matt. 27:11- 14).

In the calm solidarity of the young men who have an absolutely firm grip upon their identity and who know clearly what they are commanded to do, standing before the towering, wrathful authority, one sees the spiritual ancestry of the Quakers making their hat testimony before the magistrates, or the covenanters refusing to acknowledge any sovereignty but God's. John Calvin himself loved the scene:

"When, therefore, ... death was placed straight before their eyes, they did not turn aside from the straightforward course, but treated God's glory of greater value than their own life, nay, than a hundred lives, if they had so many to prove faith." (Daniel, I, 219).

W. Sibley Towner, *Daniel: Interpretation Bible Commentary*

Nebuchadnezzar's statue stands for political and economic power. As such, it only weakens the message of Daniel 3 to reduce it to merely a pious lesson about idolatry or the fall of the proud, as if to relate it to any proud person of any station in life. Daniel 3 is about a particular kind of pride that comes from a system that derives its prestige and power from the suffering of others; in short, it is the unique pride of the wealthy and the powerful. Who else can erect golden monuments?

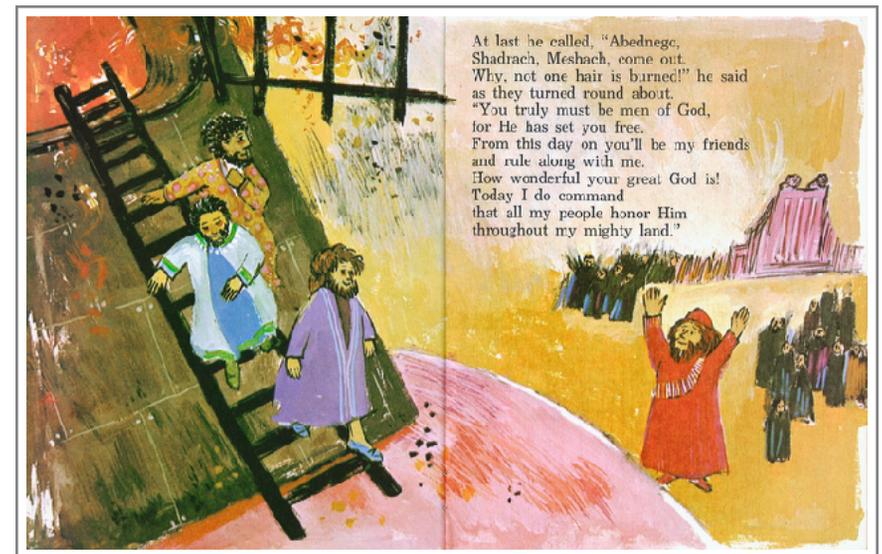
Along this same line, it is perhaps somewhat dangerous to see in chap. 3 any sympathetic portrayal of Nebuchadnezzar. To suggest that chap. 3 has a sympathetic portrayal of the emperor at the end is merely to point out that in the end the monarch's power is humbled, defeated because of the statue's powerlessness over the Jews; and thus the monarch is transformed.

There is no sympathy with tyranny in Daniel 3; there is only the possibility of change.

Daniel L. Smith-Christopher, *Daniel: The New Interpreter's Bible*

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isaiah 4



The Lord Jesus Christ be
near thee to defend thee,
within thee to refresh thee,
around thee to preserve thee,
before thee to guide thee,
behind thee to justify thee,
above thee to bless thee;
who liveth and reigneth
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
God for evermore.

10th century blessing

A world map with various countries in different colors (orange, yellow, green, blue) is visible in the background.

The Haugans are coming! The Haugans are coming!

Come meet our new missionaries and learn about their work.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

George Haugan will be leading Sunday School at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall and assisting in the worship service.

He will share with us about he and his wife's ministry in Iraq beginning in August.

BE THERE!

**GO INTO
ALL THE WORLD**