



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

July 4, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

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

Prelude

Colony IV Brass

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Hymn 610

If only we had a thousand tongues
to sing of our great God's love and mercy.

**We sing the glories of our God and King,
the many triumphs of God's unending grace!**

Our gracious Teacher and our God,
assist us in this hour to proclaim,
**to sing through all the earth abroad
the blessed honors of your name.**

To God alone all glory, praise, and love
be now and evermore given
**by us saints below and by saints above,
Christ's church in earth and heaven.**

*Hymn #610

O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Living God:

You raised your beloved Son
from the tomb of all our temptations.

By your Holy Spirit
you sent his church into the world
to comfort the afflicted
and challenge the comfortable.

**We confess again today how often we his people
prefer the comfort of your loving embrace
over the challenge of your clear calling.
Often we would rather nestle in your arms
than open up our own to others
whom you send across our paths.
Forgive us when we cling to inward grace
but ignore your outward call.**

**And thank you for never making us choose
one
to the exclusion of the
other,
for we bless you for both.
Hear now our personal prayers
in the name of Jesus ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Passing of the Peace

LISTENING

Announcements and Invitations

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn #331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay: thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase. Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people o their toilsome way. Lead us from night to never-ending day.
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture – Proverbs 3:1-7

Musical Interlude

Scripture – Luke 16:1-13

Sermon

SUMMER OF PARABLES: The shrewd manager

DEPARTING

*Hymn #757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free, make plow-share out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace. But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream, with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease, a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word, and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

*Affirmation of Faith — The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*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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**Special thanks to the Colony IV Brass quintet
Ray Lawrence & Eric Duhon, trumpet
Susan Van Wick, french horn
Stephen Hoy, trombone
Randal Foil, euphonium**

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

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers this week have been given to the glory of God by Jeff & Lynn Denny.

Lectionary Readings

July 4, 6th Sunday after Pentecost – 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
July 11, 7th Sunday after Pentecost – 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

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; Ricky 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

Bible Study with Brandon

The book of Jonah is one that is often read to young children, but rarely studied by adults. We tell the story of Jonah being swallowed by the whale but eventually he is spit out to live with God, but the story is so much more complex than that summary. This summer, join Brandon as we explore the fear, pride, fleeing, and pouting of Jonah on Wednesday evenings, 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall, from July 14 through August 4.

Men's clothes needed

The NPC Neighborhood Committee continues its service to our local community. Currently, there is a need through Macon Recovers for men's casual business clothes as well as yard-work clothes. There are men seeking jobs with lawn care companies in particular and would benefit from clothes for their interview and clothes to work in. If you have any donations, please place them in the "Neighborhood Nook" bin in the narthex.

Office Hours and Schedule

With summer upon us and in light of our sexton's absence due to health issues, office hours will be flexible these months. Normal hours will remain 8:00am-1:00pm, Monday through Friday, but please call the church office prior to coming by to ensure Jennifer is in the building. We thank you for your patience during these summer months.

Visiting those who are homebound

As more assisted living facilities begin allowing visitors, our Congregational Care committee asks that our members who are able consider visiting with some of our members who are homebound or have been more isolated this year. Covid has been especially difficult on those who have not been allowed in-person contact with friends or family. One example is Ann Smith, who always loves to see her church family. Consider making a trip out to John Wesley located at 5471 Thomaston Road. She would welcome any visitors. Other members (living at Carlyle Place) include Kay Allen, Emily Bredeson, Jane Ebey, Jon Geerling, John Hurst, Jewel James, Jane Prentice, Doris Vann, and Gail Rabai. If you would like more detail about visiting, including directions and visitor policies, please contact the church office.

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



BENEFITING NORTHMINSTER PC'S BACKPACK MINISTRY
FOR ROSA TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The neighborhood committee's backpack ministry, benefiting Rosa Taylor Elementary School, has begun the annual Christmas in July special offering. The student majority at Rosa Taylor come from low-income families who are often unable to help provide necessary school supplies for the classrooms.

With your support, we plan to provide **20 Rosa Taylor Elementary School students** with a weekly bag of food during the school year, as well as a backpack of school supplies at the beginning of the school year. We also are continuing our **Supply Closet** to provide much-needed items students and teachers need but might not be able to afford. Since our super-shoppers can buy bulk items at low cost, we are asking for **monetary donations** to support our efforts. Each Sunday in July, you can make an online donation or drop your donation into the offering bowl at the back of the sanctuary; please earmark the funds for Backpack Ministry, or use the provided offering envelope.