



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

August 15, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

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

Prelude

All Things Bright and Beautiful
Pat McCall, violin

arr. Catherine McMichael

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship— based on Hymn 611

Joyful, joyful, let us adore the living God.

God of all glory, Lord of such amazing love!

Our hearts unfold like flowers in new bloom,
opening to the sun above, growing in grace.

Holy Spirit:

Melt all clouds of sin and sadness;

drive all the dark of doubt far away from us.

God is the giver of all immortal gladness,

God will fill us again with the light of a new day.

Joyful, joyful, let us adore the living God.

God of all glory, Lord of such amazing love!

*Hymn #611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays; stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began. Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife. Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Living God,
Loving God,
your life-giving Word is
like morning dew on our leaves,
like sunlight for our greening cells,
like nutrients running up our roots.**

**Forgive us
when we let our wells run dry,
when we insist on going at it alone,
when we forget our baptisms
and hide from your Light.**

**Restore unto us
the great joy of your salvation
and renew a right spirit
within us.**

Hear now our prayers, in Jesus' name ...

Assurance of Forgiveness — based on Colossians 3

As the chosen ones of God, then, the holy people
whom God loves, let us be clothed
**in heartfelt compassion,
in generosity and humility,
in gentleness and patience.**

Bear with one another; forgive each other
if one of you has a complaint against another.
The Lord has forgiven us; now we must do the same.

Over all these holy clothes, put on love, the perfect bond.
**And may the peace of Christ reign in our hearts,
because it is for this that we were called together in one body.**

Response to Forgiveness #627

I Love You, Lord

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

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.

*Passing of the Peace

LISTENING

Announcements and Invitations

Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

Hymn #377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture – Jeremiah 17:5-8

Musical Interlude

Abide With Me

arr. Kurt Kaiser

Scripture – Luke 13:18-19

Sermon

Our Leaves Will Stay Green

DEPARTING

*Hymn #816

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, to bear thee through the evil days. Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.

Only be still, and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure and all-discerning love hath sent. No doubt our in-most wants are clear to One who holds us always dear.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine own part faithfully. Trust the rich promises of grace; so shall they be fulfilled in thee. God never yet forsook at need the soul secured by trust indeed.

*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 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 Lala Scales in loving memory of her husband, Jimmy Scales.

Lectionary Readings

August 15, 12th Sunday after Pentecost – 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
August 22, 13th Sunday after Pentecost – 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11; 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Jewel James; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; Jon Geerlings; Kathy Wheeler; Betty Barlow; Jack Gleaton; Donna Shuford; Frank Clark

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Walker Bethune & Family; Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; James C Watwood; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine

Train Day – October 9th

There's still room on the train! We will depart Northminster for Nashville, GA Saturday, Oct 9th at 9:30am via chartered bus, enjoy a bring-your-own picnic lunch, then board the train for a 2-hour tour. We'll return to Northminster around 5:30pm. Registration deadline is Sept 30th. Cost is \$25 for 1 person \$45 for 2, \$60 for 3, or \$80 for 4. You may register via your Realm account, or by signing up on the enclosed response sheet. Payments may be turned in at the church or mailed in.

Women's Retreat – November 12-13

Registration is open online for the November Women's retreat. All women, ages 13 and wiser, are invited to come and bring a friend, mother, daughter, or other female family member to our fall women's retreat. Author and pastor, Lisa Hickman, will be our guest speaker for this even which will be held Friday from 6pm-8:30pm and Saturday from 9am-2pm at Northminster. Registration will begin in August and run through November 7th. Early registration (by Oct. 1st) is \$20 per person. Regular registration (after Oct. 1st) is \$25 per person. Additional information will be provided soon.

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

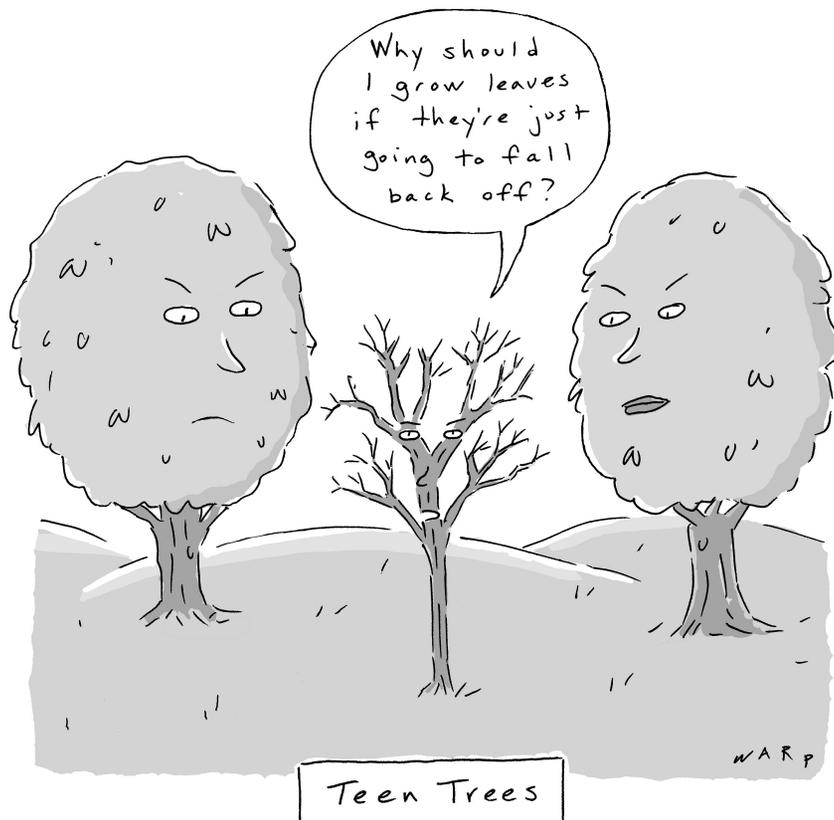
SESSION of Ruling Elders: Kari Alderman; Emily Brown; Lynn Denny; Roland Hill; Jan Hirsh; Beau Kitchens; Melissa McDougald; Charlotte Nolan; Sandra Ridgeway; Minor Vernon

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

Christians respond to God both in communal worship and service and in personal acts of worship and discipleship. The life of the Christian flows from the worship of the church, where identity as a believer is confirmed and where one is commissioned to a life of discipleship and of personal response to God. The believer's life of response and discipleship flows into the church's life of worship and service. The Word of God proclaimed and received in worship calls each believer to faithful discipleship in the world. From such service the disciple turns to give thanks, to confess, to intercede, and to hear Christ's call anew. The rhythm of the life of the believer moves from worship to ministry, from ministry to worship.

Presbyterian Directory for Worship



Monday Morning

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17

The next unit (Jeremiah 17:5-8) can best be understood as a didactic reflection which does not originate from Jeremiah himself but marks a composition in the manner of the wisdom teachers and closely resembles the imagery of Psalm 1. It expresses a simple contrast between the folly of trusting in human wisdom and trusting in God. Humanity is to live under a curse of error and illusion, whereas trusting in God is the path of blessedness and security. The reason for interjecting the contrast here has evidently been to show that the tragic fate of Judah set out in verses 1-4 is to be traced essentially to these errors of human understanding. Those who went astray and pursued the worship of false gods and symbols of gods were guilty of trusting merely human wisdom, which was worse than ignorance. In contrast those who were wise enough to trust in God were enabled to avoid the path of error. At first glance the contrast appears to have been suggested by little more than the analogy between the wise man and the "tree planted by water." There may be a much deeper connection intended, based on the understanding that the way to life and fertility (cf. "for its leaves remain green") is not to be sought through misguided rituals but through obedient trusting in God.

Lord, from You flows
true and continual kindness.
You had cast us off and justly so,
but in Your mercy You forgave us.
You were at odds with us,
and You reconciled us.
You had set a curse on us,
and You blessed us.
You had banished us from the garden,
and You called us back again.
You took away the fig leaves
that had been an unsuitable garment,
and You clothed us in a cloak of great value.
You flung wide the prison gates,
and You gave the condemned a pardon.
You sprinkled clean water on us,
and You washed away the dirt.

St. Gregory of Nyssa (Γρηγόριος Νύσσης)
c. 330–95, bishop of Nyssa, a “Cappadocian Father”

In this heat and marathon drought
the seasons have gotten confused.

Two tarantulas crossing the road this
morning, looking for love as they do

this time of year, although we're
actually just into the fall, while

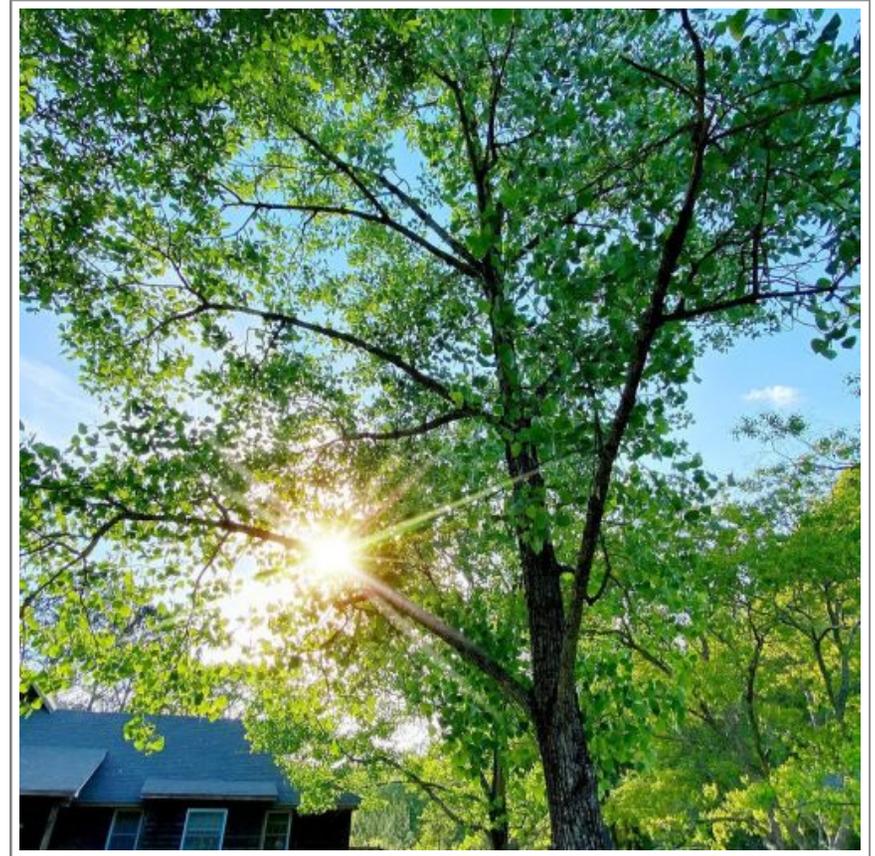
the struggling young oak in the yard,
which normally breaks its buds in

February when it's normally raining,
brought out its new leaves just a

month ago in early September.
How can this be, and

what will the tree do
now when winter arrives?

Dan Gerber, “Climate” from *Particles: New and Selected Poems*



“Leaves Remain Green” by RWH, spring 2021
Green Bough House of Prayer

Instead, you thrill to God’s Word, you chew on Scripture day and night. You’re a tree replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month, never dropping a leaf, always in blossom.

Psalms 1, The Message

Where confession of our faith is serious and clear, it must be fundamentally translatable into the speech of Mr. and Mrs. Everyman, the man and woman in the street, into the language of those who are not accustomed to reading Scripture and singing hymns, but who possess a quite different vocabulary and quite different spheres of interest. Such is the world into which Christ sent his disciples and in which all of us exist as well.

Karl Barth, *Dogmatics in Outline*