



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

August 22, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

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

Prelude

How Great Thou Art
Edward Clark, saxophone
Frank Ellis, trumpet

arr. Michael Lawrence

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 27

We believe that we will see the goodness of the Lord
when we come together to worship God.

**Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let our hearts take courage;
wait for the Lord!**

Teach us your way, O Lord,
and lead us on a level path.

“Come,” our hearts say, “seek God's face!”

Your face, Lord, do we seek.

Do not hide your face from us.

Now our heads are lifted up
above the troubles all around us,

**and we will offer in God's sanctuary
sacrifices of praise and shouts of joy.**

Let us sing and make melody to the Lord!

*Hymn #353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

[refrain] On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my
anchor holds within the veil. [refrain]

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he
then is all my hope and stay. [refrain]

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found, dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [refrain]

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession — based on Psalm 27

**O Lord
our Light and Salvation,
you have protected us
under the shelter of your promises.
Yet often we expose ourselves to
worthless pursuits
wasted time
unsatisfying hungers
communal opinions.**

**Forgive us for leaving
the shelter of your love
in the fruitless search for another home.**

**“Conceal us under the cover of your tent;
set us high on the rock” that is Jesus.**

Hear now our prayers, in his name ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

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 God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*Passing of the Peace

LISTENING

Announcements and Invitations

Hymn #744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Prayer for Healing and Illumination

Scripture – Luke 24:28-35

Sermon in Music

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Edward Clark, tenor
Frank Ellis, baritone

arr. Ovid Young

Scripture – Psalm 27

Sermon in Words

Shelter for the Day of Trouble

DEPARTING

*Hymn #733

We All Are One in Mission

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name. Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace, so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard. Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

*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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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 Sandra Ridgeway in loving memory of her mother, Louise Andrews, and her brother, Alfred Andrews, Jr.

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; Donna Shuford; Frank Clark; Beau Kitchens

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Cheryl Collier;
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; deadline is September 30th.

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 JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

Office hours this week: Monday - Friday 8:30-1:00

The great ends of the church are:

- The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
- The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
- The maintenance of divine worship
- The preservation of the truth
- The promotion of social righteousness
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

Presbyterian Book of Order

In Thee, O Lord God, I place my whole hope and refuge; on Thee I rest all my tribulation and anguish; for I find all to be weak and inconstant, whatsoever I behold out of Thee. For many friends cannot profit, nor strong helpers assist, nor the books of the learned afford comfort, nor any place, however retired and lonely, give shelter, unless Thou Thyself dost assist, strengthen, console, instruct, and guard us. For all things that seem to belong to the attainment of peace and felicity, without Thee, are nothing, and do bring in truth no felicity at all. Thou therefore art the Fountain of all that is good; and to hope in Thee above all things is the strongest comfort of Thy servants. To Thee, therefore, do I lift up mine eyes; in Thee, my God, the Father of mercies, do I put my trust.

Thomas à Kempis (1380–1471)

When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint.
When I ask why the poor have no food,
they call me a Communist.

Dom Helder Camara
Brazilian Catholic archbishop

Monday Morning

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.
One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his **shelter**
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

from Psalm 27

בֵּסֶכֶה

soke; a hut (as of entwined boughs);
also a lair: covert, den, pavilion, tabernacle



I'm asking God for one thing,
only one thing:
To live with him in his house
my whole life long.
I'll contemplate his beauty;
I'll study at his feet.
That's the only quiet, secure place
in a noisy world,
The perfect getaway,
far from the buzz of traffic.
God holds me head and shoulders
above all who try to pull me down.
I'm headed for his place to offer anthems
that will raise the roof!
Already I'm singing God-songs;
I'm making music to God.

from Psalm 27
The Message paraphrase

Let us pray that Jesus may reign over us and that our land may be at peace, that our bodies may be free from the assaults of fleshly desires. When these have ceased, we shall be able to rest, beneath our vines, our fig-trees and our olives. Father, Son and Holy Spirit will shelter us as we rest, our peace of mind and body once recovered. Glory to God the eternal, age after age. Amen.

Origen of Alexandria (Origen Adamantius) (c. 185–254)

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

“Lockdown” by Richard Hendrick — March 2020
a Capuchin Franciscan brother living in Ireland