



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

August 29, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

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

Prelude

Calista Koch, harp

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on the ancient hymn *Phos Hilaron*

Jesus is the light of the world,
and once again we gather in his name!

**O Light gladsome of the glory of the Immortal Father,
the Heavenly, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ.**

For God our Father has seen us through another night
and blessed us with the gift of another new day!

**O Light gladsome of the glory of the Immortal Father,
the Heavenly, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ.**

Worthy it is at all times to praise God in joyful voices,

**O Son of God, Giver of Life,
for which the world glorifies Thee.**

*Hymn #673

Jesus, Light of Joy

Jesus, light of joy, surround us; let your splendid glory shine: source of every earthly blessing,
heaven's everlasting sign. Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.

Now the shadows fall around us; now the evening has begun: still your gracious light is with us,
brighter than the morning sun. Alleluia, alleluia, God of glory, Three in One.

With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might. All creation shines with glory,
singing praises day and night: alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Blessed Jesus,
O Light gladsome,
you are the light of the world,
and you call to reflect your love,
shimmering your light to all around us.**

**Forgive us
when we hide your light under a basket,
when we prefer the darkness of night,
when we are turned toward the shadows
instead of your glory.**

**Free us from our pasts,
enlighten our present,
and shine a light on your path ahead.**

Hear now our prayers of confession ...

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 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.

*Passing of the Peace

LISTENING

Announcements and Invitations

Mission Challenge: Raise the Roof for Loaves & Fishes

Hymn #767

Together We Serve

Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy,
extending God's love to the last and the least.

We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely,
and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus,
in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.

Prayer for Healing and Illumination

Scripture – James 2:14-26

Sermon in Music

Kalista Koch

Scripture – Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon in Words

From Dogs to Humans: Seeing and Being Seen

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 Nita Mitchell in loving memory of her husband, Louie Mitchell.

Lectionary Readings

August 29, 14th Sunday after Pentecost – Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
September 5, 15th Sunday after Pentecost – Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

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; 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

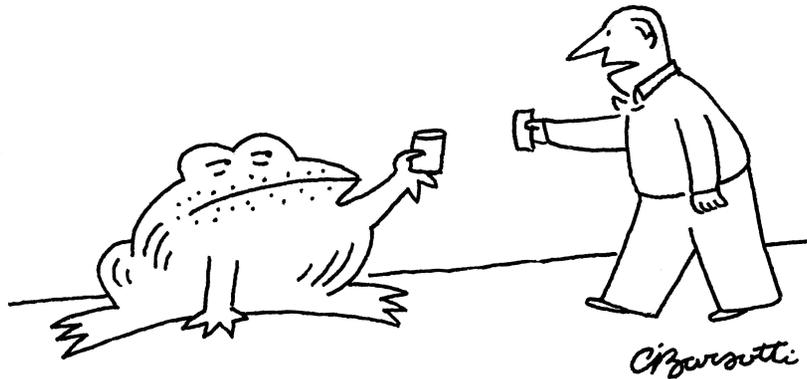
There is a great host of weary men and women, toiling on through life, toward the grave--who most sorely need, just now, the cheering words and helpful ministries which we can give.

You are gathering incense of affection to scatter about their coffins; but why should it not be scattered in the hard paths on which their feet today are treading?

The kind words are lying in men's hearts unexpressed, trembling on their tongues unvoiced--which will be spoken by and by, when these weary ones are sleeping in their graves. But why should they not be spoken now, when they are needed so much, and when the kind words would give such cheer and hope?

The flowers are growing to strew on their graves; but why not cut them now to brighten their dreary lives and dark paths.

James Russell Miller (1840-1912)
Christian author, Presbyterian Board of Publication, pastor



"PROMISE YOU'LL SPEND IT ON FLIES?"

Monday Morning



Syrophenician woman fresco
Votivkirche church in Vienna, Austria

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Matthew 15

I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy.
I woke and I saw that life is all service.
I served and I saw that service is joy.

Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)
Lebanese-American writer, poet, visual artist

The eventual answering of the request of the Canaanite woman, as with the healing of the centurion's son (Matthew 8:5-13), are exceptions in the ministry of Jesus that are at the same time anticipations of the ultimate goal of the mission of the Christ, which is to bring blessing to humankind universally. The gentile mission will become increasingly clear later in Matthew, but it is especially important for the evangelist to stress the faithfulness of God initially to Israel, which is her salvation-historical right (cf. Rom 1:16). Jesus strictly limited his own mission, as he did that of his disciples, to Israel; but the time of the blessing of the Gentiles was indicated by Jesus explicitly and is foreshadowed here and there in the narratives. What becomes clear again from the present passage is a basic principle: that it is ultimately receptive faith and not physical Jewishness that determines the blessing of God. Paul maximized this truth as the apostle to the Gentiles. The latter can receive the privilege of the Jews through faith (cf. Rom 4; Gal 3). Accordingly, the privilege of the Jews is no longer unique but is to be enjoyed by all who respond in faith.

Donald A. Hagner, *Word Biblical Commentary: Matthew 14-28*

From a documentary on marsupials I learn
that a pillowcase makes a fine
substitute pouch for an orphaned kangaroo.

I am drawn to such dramas of animal rescue.
They are warm in the throat. I suffer, the critic proclaims,
from an overabundance of maternal genes.

Bring me your fallen fledgling, your bummer lamb,
lead the abused, the starvelings, into my barn.
Advise the hunted deer to leap into my corn.

And had there been a wild child—
filthy and fierce as a ferret, he is called
in one nineteenth-century account—

a wild child to love, it is safe to assume,
given my fireside inked with paw prints,
there would have been room.

Think of the language we two, same and not-same,
might have constructed from sign,
scratch, grimace, grunt, vowel:

Laughter our first noun, and our long verb, howl.

"Nurture" by Maxine Kumin — from *Selected Poems: 1960-1990*

The church participates in God's mission to the world through its ministry and worship. Worship presents the reality of the divine rule which God has promised in Jesus Christ as the final renewal of creation. The worshiping community in its integrity before the Word and its unity in prayer and Sacraments is a sign of the presence of the reign of God.

The church in its ministry bears witness to God's reign through the proclamation of the gospel, through works of compassion and reconciliation, and through the stewardship of creation and of life. Signs of God's reign are also manifest in the world wherever the Holy Spirit leads people to seek justice and to make peace.

God calls the church in worship to join the mission of Jesus Christ in service to the world. As it participates in that mission the church is called to worship God in Jesus Christ, who reigns over the world. God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to exercise compassion in the world,

- a. feeding the hungry,
- b. comforting the grieving,
- c. caring for the sick,
- d. visiting the prisoners,
- e. freeing the captives,
- f. sheltering the homeless,
- g. befriending the lonely.

God's call to compassion is proclaimed in worship. Those called are equipped and strengthened for the ministry of compassion by the proclamation of the Word and by the celebration of the Sacraments. The call is accepted as the faithful respond in prayers of confession and intercession, in acts of self-offering, and in offering material goods to be shared in ministries of compassion.

Presbyterian Directory for Worship

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley (1703–91)

NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

invites WOMEN of all ages to a weekend retreat



Praying the **Life Cycle:** Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

with noted pastor and author

Dr. Lisa Nichols Hickman

Women of all ages: Come join us at Northminster Presbyterian Church for a conversation and reflection on the different ages and stages of our lives. Life Cycle Theory helps us pay attention to questions of meaning, purpose, and formation during those different ages. As a community of Christian faith, learning more about the life cycle invites new opportunities for connection, community, and commitment to prayer as we discover new strength for today and deeper hope for tomorrow both for ourselves and for our neighbors.

November 12-13, 2021

Friday evening 6-8:30pm and Saturday morning 9am-2pm. Meals included.

Early registration by September 15 is **\$20**
Regular registration until November 7 is **\$25**

Register online at www.northminstermacon.org or call 478-477-6646



Dr. Lisa Nichols Hickman is a Presbyterian pastor and author. She currently serves at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, as an Associate Pastor for Children and Families. Her books include: *Writing in the Margins: Connecting with God on the Pages of Your Bible*, *Mercy and Melons: Praying the Alphabet*, and *The Worshiping Life: Meditations on the Order of Worship*.