



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

September 26, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

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

Prelude

Wayfaring Stranger
Catherine Woody, piano

arr. Don Wyrzten

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 34

Once again

we have come together to worship God.

I will bless the Lord at all times.

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

We gather amid these walls, touched by light.

We gather in our homes, our shelters in life.

I will bless the Lord at all times.

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Whether this new day brings surprising blessing

or another step of burden along life's path,

I will bless the Lord at all times.

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

We sing to show God how grateful we are for life.

And we keep silent, trusting God will again speak.

I will bless the Lord at all times.

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn #667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awakening cries: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fade my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the-eternal song through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God who speaks,
God of holy silence,
God of all times and spaces:
In Jesus' name we confess our sins.**

**This world is full of too much chatter,
too many words that are not true,
too many stories that do not save.**

**Forgive us for adding to the noise,
to the lies, to the gossip and gripes.**

**Once again we cling to your mercy.
Hear our silent 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.**

*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.

*Passing of the Peace

LISTENING

Announcements and Invitations

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn #469

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to you children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture – Mark 4:35-41

Sermon in Music

Like a River Glorious with Peace Like a River

arr. Jay Turner

Scripture – Psalm 62

Sermon in Words

Soul Silence: Praying by not Praying

DEPARTING

*Hymn #726

Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*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 Annette Hutto in loving memory of Horace Hutto and Bill & Callie Drimon.

Lectionary Readings

September 26, 18th Sunday after Pentecost – Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

October 3, World Communion Sunday – Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

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;

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Joel Jones

Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson)

Rise Against Hunger – Sunday, October 3rd at 2pm at Forsyth Presbyterian

If you would like to participate in the annual Rise Against Hunger food packing event, mark your calendar for October 3rd. You may also donate online at flitriverpresbytery.org

Train Day – October 9th

There's still room on the train tour in Nashville, GA! 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 event which will be held Friday from 6pm-8:30pm and Saturday from 9am-2pm at Northminster. Registration will run through November 7th. Registration is \$25 per person.

Peace and Global Witness Special offering

The Peace and Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere. We will collect this offering on World Communion Sunday, October 3rd.

Help with UKirk meals

If you are willing to provide a meal for the UKirk students, either by yourself or by teaming up with others, please contact Emory Whitaker at lewhitaker@cox.net or 478-737-5273

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;

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

WWW.NORTHMINSTERMACON.ORG

478-477-6646 565

WIMBISH RD. MACON, GA 31210

Silence is not much preached today, so it is for prayer to preach it. If we do not listen we do not come to the truth. If we do not pray we do not even get as far as listening. The four things do together: silence, listening, prayer, truth.

Hubert van Zeller (1905-84)
Benedictine writer and artist

God is the friend of silence. Trees, flowers, grass grow in silence. See the stars, moon, and sun, how they move in silence.

Mother Teresa

We are silent at the beginning of the day because God should have the first word, and we are silent before going to sleep because the last word also belongs to God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45)
German Lutheran pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi dissident



Monday Morning

For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

Truly my soul silently waits for God;
From Him comes my salvation.
He only is my rock and my salvation;
He is my defense;
I shall not be greatly moved.

My soul waits in silence for God alone;
my salvation comes from him.
He alone is my rock and salvation,
my stronghold; I won't be greatly moved.

I wait patiently for God to save me;
I depend on him alone.
He alone protects and saves me;
he is my defender,
and I shall never be defeated.

I stand silently to listen for the one I love,
waiting as long as it takes for the Lord to rescue me.
For God alone has become my Savior.
He alone is my safe place;
his wraparound presence always protects me.
For he is my champion defender;
there's no risk of failure with God.
So why would I let worry paralyze me,
even when troubles multiply around me?

God, the one and only—
I'll wait as long as he says.
Everything I need comes from him,
so why not?
He's solid rock under my feet,
breathing room for my soul,
An impregnable castle:
I'm set for life.

Prayer is a conscious opening of the self to God, who initiates communion and communication with us. Prayer is receiving and responding, speaking and listening, waiting and acting in the presence of God. In prayer we respond to God in adoration, in thanksgiving, in confession, in supplication, in intercession, and in self-dedication.

Prayer in personal worship may be expressed in various ways.

- One may engage in conscious conversation with God, putting into words one's joys and concerns, fears and hopes, needs and longings in life.
- **One may wait upon God in attentive and expectant silence.**
- One may meditate upon God's gifts, God's actions, God's Word, and God's character.
- One may contemplate God, moving beyond words and thoughts to communion of one's spirit with the Spirit of God.
- One may draw near to God in solitude.
- One may pray in tongues as a personal and private discipline.
- One may take on an individual discipline of enacted prayer through dance, physical exercise, music, or other expressive activity as a response to grace.
- One may enact prayer as a public witness through keeping a vigil, through deeds of social responsibility or protest, or through symbolic acts of disciplined service.
- One may take on the discipline of holding before God the people, transactions, and events of daily life in the world.
- One may enter into prayer covenants or engage in the regular discipline of shared prayer.

The Christian is called to a life of constant prayer, of "prayer without ceasing." (Rom. 12:12; 1 Thess. 5:17)

"Prayer in Personal Worship"
from the Presbyterian *Directory for Worship*

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

John Greenleaf Whittier, poet (1807–92)

The Lord is in his holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before him!

Habakkuk 2:20

The simplest spiritual discipline is some degree of solitude and silence. But it's the hardest, because none of us want to be with someone we don't love. Besides that, we invariably feel bored with ourselves, and all of our loneliness comes to the surface. We won't have the courage to go into that terrifying place without Love to protect us and lead us, without the light and love of God overriding our own self-doubt. Such silence is the most spacious and empowering technique in the world, yet it's not a technique at all. It's precisely the refusal of all technique.

Richard Rohr, *Radical Grace: Daily Meditations*

The time has come
To stop allowing the clutter
To clutter my mind
Like dirty snow,
Shove it off and find
Clear time, clear water.

Time for a change,
Let silence in like a cat
Who has sat at my door
Neither wild nor strange
Hoping for food from my store
And shivering on the mat.

Let silence in.
She will rarely speak or mew,
She will sleep on my bed
And all I have ever been
Either false or true
Will live again in my head.

For it is now or not
As old age silts the stream,
To shove away the clutter,
To untie every knot,
To take the time to dream,
To come back to still water.

"New Year Resolve" by May Sarton
from *Collected Poems* 1930-1993