



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

October 3, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

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

Prelude

Above All

arr. Michael Lawrence

Edward Clark, saxophone; Frank Ellis, trumpet

*Crucified, laid behind a stone; you lived to die, rejected and alone –
and like rose trampled on the ground you took the fall and thought of me Above All.*

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on hymn 511

Come, behold!

The feast of heaven is before us.

For God's great generosity in our lives, we say Alleluia!

Come, behold!

The word of God will be spoken.

For Jesus leading us on the way to God, we say Alleluia!

Come, behold!

The waters of baptism are here before us.

For the Holy Spirit joining us to Christ, we say Alleluia!

Come, behold!

God is once again calling us to worship.

For the mystery and beauty of the triune God, we say Alleluia!

*Hymn #511

Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven

Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia! has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the word of God declared: Alleluia! "Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!

All is ready, come attend Alleluia! as the Lord's invited friend; Alleluia!
come from north, west, south, and east; Alleluia! celebrate the joyful feast. Alleluia!

All who trust in God belong Alleluia! at this banquet with this throng. Alleluia!
Share the mystic holy food; Alleluia! taste and see: the Lord is good. Alleluia!

As the Lord our God has willed, Alleluia! here the hungry soul is filled; Alleluia!
here the weary are refreshed. Alleluia! All who share God's feast are blessed. Alleluia!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession - based on Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**Do not cast me from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Hear our 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 — from the Presbyterian Study Catechism

Question 77. What is the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal by which our communion with Christ is renewed.

Question 78. What does it mean to share in the Lord's Supper?

When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present, pouring out his Spirit upon us. By his Spirit, the bread that we break and the cup that we bless share in our Lord's own body and blood. Through them he once offered our life to God; through them he now offers his life to us. As I receive the bread and the cup, remembering that Christ died even for me, I feed on him in my heart by faith with thanksgiving, and enter his risen life, so that his life becomes mine, and my life becomes his, to all eternity.

*Passing of the Peace

LISTENING

Announcements and Invitations

Hymn #515

I Come with Joy

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Prayers for Illumination

Scripture – Acts 12:1-19

Sermon in Words

Stepping outside our own souls: ENACTING prayer

Sermon in Music

Let Us Break Bread Together
Edward Clark, tenor; Frank Ellis, baritone

arr. Craig Courtney

Remembering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

DEPARTING

*Hymn #500

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.

Here share with us, in love divine, your body and your blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine be our immortal food.

*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 Amy & Dan Maley in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary.

Lectionary Readings

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

October 10, 20th Sunday after Pentecost – Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

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 – This afternoon, 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

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 are collecting this offering today.

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

October Book Drive for Macon Recovers

Throughout the month of October we are collecting used books to help build the library at Macon Recovers. If you have any books you would like to donate, please put them in the "Neighborhood Nook" box located in the church foyer. All genres are welcome; however, we don't want to bring over anything too sad.

Thank you on behalf of Macon Recovers and the Neighborhood Committee.

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

If true service is to be understood and practiced, it must be distinguished clearly from "self-righteous service."

Self-righteous service comes through human effort. It expends immense amounts of energy calculating and scheming how to render the service. Sociological charts and surveys are devised so we can "help those people." True service comes from a relationship with the divine Other deep inside. We serve out of whispered promptings, divine urgings. Energy is expended but it is not the frantic energy of the flesh. Thomas Kelly writes, "I find He never guides us into an intolerable scramble of panting feverishness."

Self-righteous service is impressed with the "big deal." It is concerned to make impressive gains on ecclesiastical scoreboards. It enjoys serving, especially when the service is titanic. True service finds it almost impossible to distinguish the small from the large service. Where a difference is noted, the true servant is often drawn to the small service, not out of false modesty, but because he genuinely sees it as the more important task. He indiscriminately welcomes all opportunities to serve.

Self-righteous service requires external rewards. It needs to know that people see and appreciate the effort. It seeks human applause- with proper religious modesty of course. True service rests contented in hiddenness. It does not fear the lights and blare of attention, but it does not seek them either. Since it is living out of a new Center of reference, the divine nod of approval is completely sufficient.

Self-righteous service is insensitive. It insists on meeting the need even when to do so would be destructive. It demands the opportunity to help. True service can withhold the service as freely as perform it. It can listen with tenderness and patience before acting. It can serve by waiting in silence. "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Richard Foster

Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth

compiled by RWH for Northminster Macon — week of 2021-10-03

Monday Morning

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. **While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.**

from Acts 12:1-19



window based on Acts 12, from St Peter's Church, Roath
the oldest Roman Catholic church in Cardiff, capital of Wales

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)

Christians observe special times and seasons for the disciplines of fasting, keeping vigil, and other forms of enacted prayer. It is also appropriate to observe these disciplines at any time, especially in preparation for specific acts of discipleship or as acts of penitence, reconciliation, peacemaking, social protest, and compassion.

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

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

"I Come with Joy"
words from the hymn by Brian Wren, 1968

If he has faith, the believer cannot be restrained. He betrays himself. He breaks out. He confesses and teaches the gospel to the people at the risk of life itself.

Martin Luther

The only New Testament precedents for spreading the Gospel are godly living, praying, and bold speaking.

Geoffrey Thomas

To be a witness does not consist of engaging in propaganda or in stirring people up. It means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist.

Emmanuel Célestin Suhard (1874-1949)
French Roman Catholic cardinal of Paris

O God of love, you have called us into the church. We thank you for opportunities to grow in understanding and concern for one another. May our congregations be an incarnation of your love within and beyond these church doors, wherever there is loneliness, injustice, or misunderstanding; through Christ our Head, and the Holy Spirit our Strength. Amen.

Ruth C. Duck



Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

Thank you for your participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

IF WE ALL
DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP
TO A LOT!



The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation

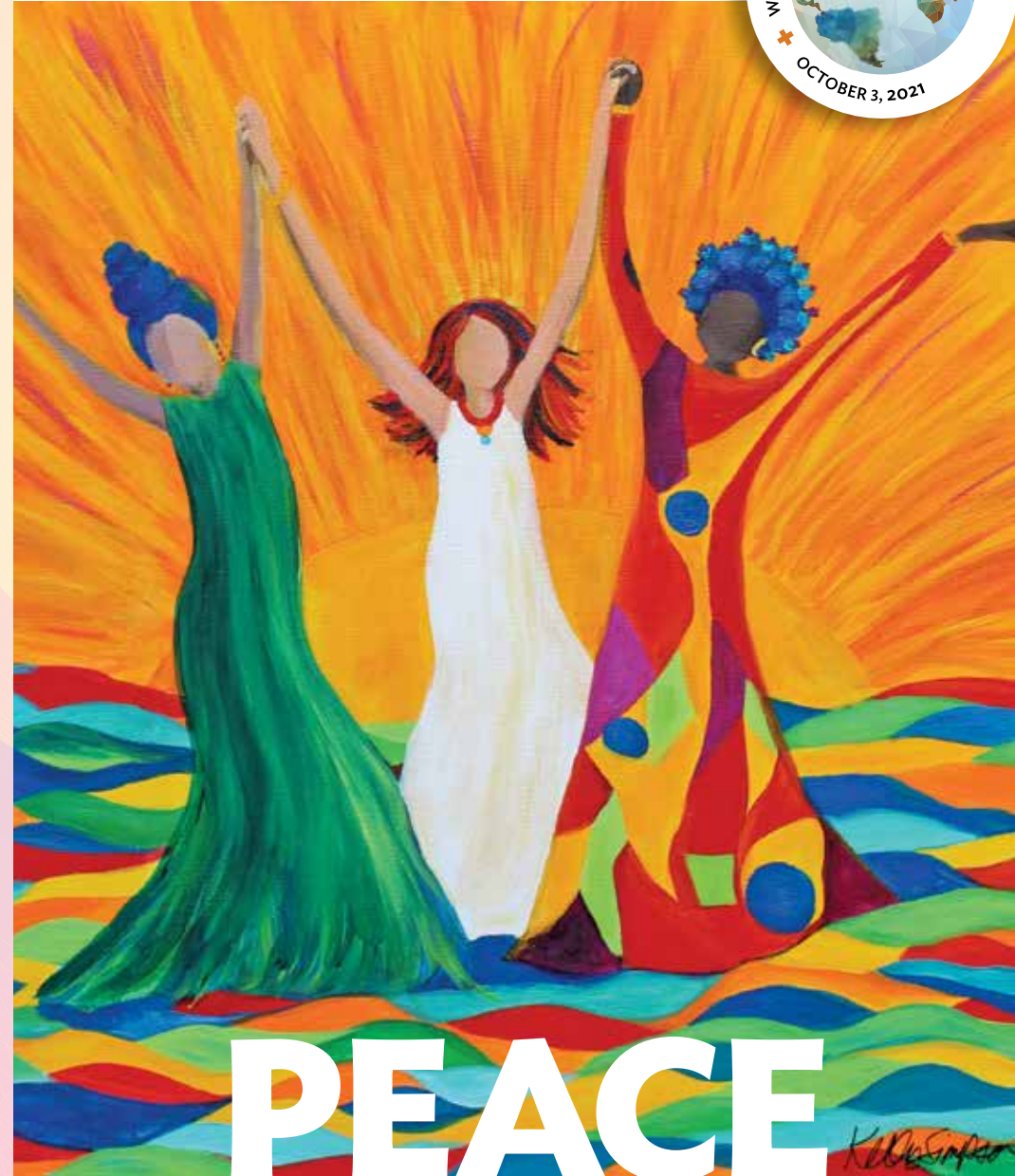


Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global



Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 to give to Peace & Global Witness or visit pcusa.org/peace-global for more information.

COVER: "THE POWER OF HOPE" BY KELLY SIMPSON HAGEN, KELLY'S ART FROM THE SOUL



PEACE
at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

✧ PEACE AT ALL TIMES, IN ALL WAYS

The Peace & Global Witness Offering helps people process violence and crisis-related trauma through creative expression in places like Lebanon, Southwestern Asia and North Africa.



The Pacific Presbytery Immigration and Refugee Task Force and the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program sponsored a travel study seminar to Los Angeles and Tijuana to witness the impact of migration and immigration law north and south of the border — one of many such trips they sponsor to share more about efforts for peace, justice and reconciliation in places of conflict, injustice and oppression.



First Presbyterian Church of Boonton, N.J., uses its portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to support mental health and suicide prevention programs in their community.



Visit pcusa.org/peace-global/resources for more information.

PHOTOS FROM TOP: JAM SESSION IN BERUJIT, THE BORDER CHURCH; KRIST VAN NOSTRAN, OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BOONTON, NJ

THE LIGHT OF PEACE

The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.

25%

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25%

of this Offering will go to joining with other congregations in our area to support peacemaking work in our region.

50%

of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Please give generously.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.