

Simply

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free.
Till by turning, turning we come round right.



STEWARDSHIP

November 14, 2021

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

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

Prelude

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Catherine Wooddy, Piano

arr. Bennett/Berry

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — adapted from Psalm 90

Lord, through all the generations
you have been our home!

**Before the mountains were born,
before you summoned the earth and the world,
from beginning to end, you are God.**

For you, a thousand years are as a passing day,
as brief as a few of our night hours.

**Who can comprehend the power of your love?
Your wonder is as awesome as the worship you deserve.**

Teach us to realize the brevity of this blessed life,
so that we may grow in wisdom.

**Bless us each morning with your unfailing love,
so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives.**

Give us gladness in proportion to your deep mercy.
Replace the evil years with good ones.

**Let us, your servants, hear you good news again;
let our children and theirs see your glory.**

And may the Lord our God bless our worship today
and make this time a faithful fellowship.

*Hymn #687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession — based on Psalm 42

As the deer longs for flowing streams,
so our souls long for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall we come and behold the face of our God?

Often tears have been our food day and night,
while people say to us continually, “Where is your God?”

This we remember, as we pour out our souls:

Hope in God; for we shall again praise the Lord, our help and friend.

Hear our prayers of confession ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Response to Forgiveness #687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past, verse 6*

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

*Affirmation of Faith — from the 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

Stewardship Invitation

Scripture – Acts 2:41-47

Hymn

Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight Till by turning, turning we come round right.

Scripture – Luke 18:18-25

Sermon in Music

Assurance

arr. John Ness Bech

Sermon in Words

**Simply Stewardship:
Loose Fisted Giving**

*Hymn #697

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

DEPARTING

*Benediction

*Sung 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 Catherine Woody in loving memory of her husband, R. Lynn Woody.

Lectionary Readings

November 14, 25th Sunday after Pentecost - 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8
November 21, 26th Reign of Christ – 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

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; Janet Kelly

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)

Gloves for the Homeless

Fall is here and that means it is time for our annual tradition of providing **GLOVES FOR THE HOMELESS** members of our community. Each year Northminster provides 500 pairs of gloves, half of which are given to the attendees of the Christmas Party for the Homeless and the other half to Loaves and Fishes. The Outreach Committee has already purchased the gloves in bulk from a wholesaler and would appreciate your help in paying for them. Every \$10 donation pays for 6 pairs of gloves. You may donate with a check to Northminster with "gloves #2237" in the memo line or give online at northminstermacon.org/give. This is a wonderful way to provide some Christmas warmth for our homeless brothers and sisters, and we thank you for your part in it.

2022-2023 Elders

After a vote at the November 7th congregational meeting, our slate of elders to serve the years of 2022 & 2023 has been approved. These include Barbara Fatkin, Jinny McDuffie, Ray Mosely, Michael Napier and Genny Whitaker.

Alternative Christmas Fair – December 5th

The annual Alternative Christmas Fair is a unique way to give a gift that "gives" twice. By giving a donation in any amount to any or all of the supported ministries – Thornwell, Loaves & Fishes, Habitat for Humanity - you will be given a card to gift to a friend or family member, letting them know you have given a donation in their honor. Join us immediately following the Lessons & Carols service on Sunday, December 5th for this wonderful event. You may also give by mail or online.

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 PAULEVANS, Parish Associate SANDRA SMITH, Music Director

KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

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