



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

...making disciples, growing in faith together and serving others in Christ

January 23, 2022

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

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

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 19

God's Word is perfect in every way; how it revives our souls!

**God's laws lead us to truth,
and the Lord's ways change the simple into wise.**

God's teachings are right and make us joyful; God's precepts are so pure!

God's commands challenge us to keep close to his heart!

The revelation-light of his Word makes our spirits shine radiant.

God's decrees are trustworthy.

Respect for the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The rarest treasures of life are found in God's truth.

That's why God's Word is prized like others prize gold.

Sweeter also than honey are God's living words—

sweet words dripping from the honeycomb!

For they warn us, your servants, and keep us from following the wicked way,

giving a lifetime guarantee:

great blessing to every obedient soul!

How would I discern the waywardness of my heart?

Lord, forgive my hidden flaws whenever you find them.

Keep cleansing me, God, and keep me from my secret, selfish sins;

may they never rule over me!

For only then will I be free from fault

and remain innocent of rebellion.

So may the words of my mouth, my meditation-thoughts,

and every movement of my heart

be always pure and pleasing,

acceptable before your eyes, O God,

our only Redeemer, our Protector.

Hymn #611

Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays; stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began. Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife. Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Through Christ, our Lord,
hear our prayers ...**

Affirmation of Faith — Brief Statement of Faith

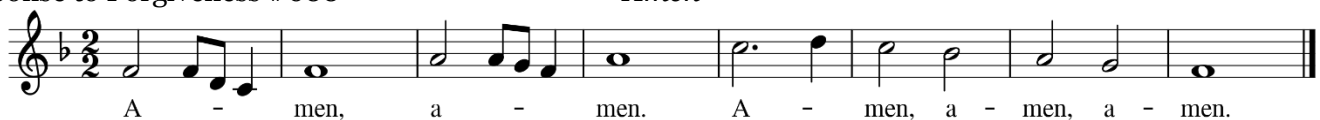
In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Luke 15, selections

Response to Forgiveness #600

Amen



*Offering Signs of Peace

*Hymn #805

Come Sing to God

Come sing to God, O living saints; sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent; God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night with sighs of deepest pain,
yet joy comes with the morning sun, a peace that is not vain.

In my success I felt secure; how good you've been to me.
I said that this is my own work, ascribing all to me.
But when you turned aside your face, my life was filled with fears.
I begged for help; to you I cried with loud and bitter tears.

What good is gained by my disgrace, what profit in defeat?
My grave cannot confess your name, nor praise for you repeat.
Now hear, O Lord, my plaintive cry; be merciful to me.
Accept my longing heart's request and from death set me free.

You change my grief to joy-filled dance; my sorrows you destroy.
In faithfulness you hear my cry and fill my life with joy.
And so to you my heart shall sing; my voice your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore. My life shall sing your praise.

LISTENING

Announcements and Invitations

Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer

Sermon in Music

Scripture – Galatians 1:1-5

Sermon in Words – **GOOD NEWS from GALATIANS: Greetings and Salutations!**

DEPARTING

*Hymn #307

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

*Benediction

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a need or a request for prayer, please contact the church office.

Current Member Concerns: Ann R. Smith; Ann Hall; Jane Ebey; Jon Geerlings; Kathy Wheeler; Betty Barlow; Donna Shuford; Frank Clark; Janet Kelly; Lynn Southerland

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)

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers this Sunday have been given to the glory of God by Michael and Chloe Napier in celebration of their first anniversary.

Passing the Red Books

Please be sure to sign and pass along the red book found at the end of your pew. If you have had any changes to your contact information, please note them here. If you are visiting with us, we welcome you to share your contact information and let us know if you'd like to be added to our email list.

Church-Wide Bingo!

Everyone is invited to join us for what is sure to be a great time of fun and fellowship! We'll be having lunch and games of Bingo following worship today. This event will be an opportunity to raise money for the youth to attend their annual trip to Montreat. The church will be providing fried chicken, drinks, and paper products. Please bring a side to share (and cash for the games). If you're not yet comfortable with sharing a meal, please join in the fun anyway! You're welcome to bring your own lunch.

Congregational Meeting

We will have a congregational meeting Sunday, January 30, immediately following the worship service to review and approve pastor Ralph Hawkins' terms of call for 2022.

Volunteers Needed to Usher and Greet

We are currently seeking smiling faces and joyful hearts to greet members and guests as well as pass the offering plates on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping to greet and usher, please contact Jan Hirsh at 478-952-6480 or jhirsh1020@gmail.com.

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; Barbara Fatkin; Roland Hill; Jan Hirsh;

Melissa McDougald; Jinny McDuffie; Ray Mosely; Michael Napier; Minor Vernon; Genny Whitaker

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 - Thursday 8:30-1:00

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