



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

March 6, 2022

1st Sunday in Lent

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

Prelude

Picardy

arr. Rick Deasley

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 91

Those who take refuge in the shelter of the Most High
will be safe in the shadow of the Almighty.

**They will say to the Eternal, “Our shelter, our mighty fortress,
our God, we place all our trust in You.”**

For God will rescue you from the snares set by your enemies who entrap you
and from deadly powers, seen and unseen.

**Like a bird protecting its young, God will cover you with feathers,
will protect you under God's great wings.**

God's faithfulness will form a shield around you, a rock-solid wall to protect you.

With grateful hearts, let us begin this Lenten journey together.

Hymn #215

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,
for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul,
for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing,
I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity, I'll sing on,
I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

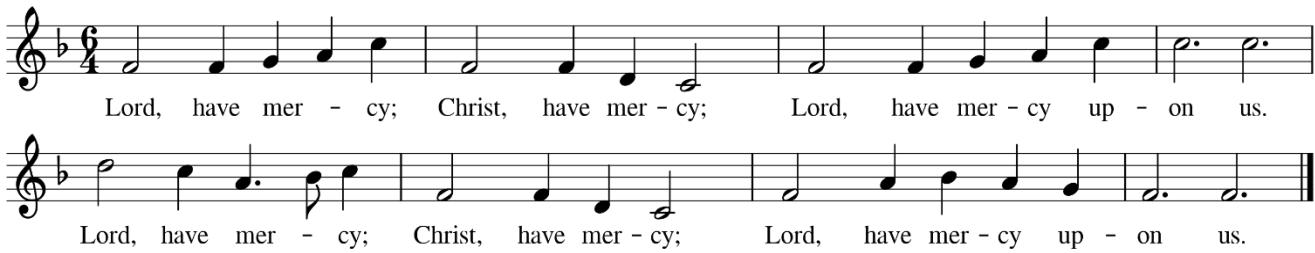
Prayers of Confession

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being.
Teach us wisdom in our secret heart.
Send out your light, send out your truth,
and let them lead us to our true home.
Take from us the weight of our sin,
that room might be made for the spirit of truth.
If we prepare a dwelling place in you, that spirit will abide within us,
and the truth will set our spirits free.
Then shall we love not only in word or in speech;
then shall we love in deed and in truth,
and by this know that our service is faithful.
O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being.
Teach us wisdom in our secret heart.
Hear our prayers in Jesus' name ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #551

Lord, have Mercy



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Affirmation of Faith — based on Matthew 22:37-40

What is the great and first commandment?
**Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.**
What is the second commandment like it?
Love your neighbor as yourself.
What does this mean?
Love is the fulfilling of the law.
To what does this call us?
To a life of faith working through love.

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering our Offerings

Offertory Music

Offertory on "Mercy"

arr. Gordon Young

LISTENING

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Illumination

Scripture – Romans 10:8-13

*Hymn #166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion-tide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Scripture – Luke 4:1-13

Sermon in Words

**LENT: Less about feeling bad for eating chocolate;
more about learning to trust God's promises.**

*Hymn #525

Let Us Break Bread

verse 1-2

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

SHARING

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right for us to give thanks and praise...**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing of Bread and Cup

All who desire the communion meal are invited to come forward to the table, receive a portion of bread from the pastor, take a cup from one of the elders, and return to the pew. We will share in the cup together once everyone has been served.

Music during Communion

Closing Unison Prayer

**God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life.
May this food strengthen us in love
and help us to serve you in each other.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.**

*Hymn #525

Let Us Break Bread

verse 3

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

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 aplace 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; Steve, Helene, and baby Amelia Olk
Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Nelda Crow; Joel Jones; Hazel Crow

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

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers this week have been given to the glory of God by Virginia Hall in honor of Virginia Cowsert and other substitute teachers who have stepped up and been invaluable through the past two years.

Communion at Carlyle

After much time of being unable to host communion for our homebound at Carlyle Place, we are now able to resume sharing of the bread and cup with our member residents. Communion will be served the first Sunday of each month (as it is in the worship service schedule) at 2:30pm. If you are an elder, past or present, who would like to assist with communion at Carlyle, please contact Genny Whitaker at 478-731-5248 or ggwhit@cox.net.

Flint River travel to Ireland

There has been good interest in traveling to Ireland with friends from FRP! The Ireland Trip is scheduled for September 17-27, 2022, and all are invited to come along. Please contact the church office if you would like to review the itinerary and if you'd like more information, contact Jane Shelton at jane@sgatravel.com.

Lenten Devotionals

Our Lenten devotionals are available for pick-up today. Most members and friends who have been worshipping at home have received their devotional by mail, but if you know of someone who has not and would like to deliver it to them, you are welcome to do so.

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: Sunday - Thursday 8:30-1:00

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Too often Christians have focused on all the things we shouldn't do, instead of pointing us to the gift and grace of our identity as children of God. But the devil knows better. Notice how each of the temptations seeks to erode and undercut Jesus' confidence in this relationship with God and therefore undermine Jesus' identity. Jesus, of course, picks up on this. Which is why when the devil offers him bread, he responds with an affirmation of trust in God. The next temptation is more transparent, offering Jesus the power of the world's leaders in return for Jesus' allegiance and worship. But again Jesus knows that his allegiance can only be given to the one from whom he has received his identity. Finally, the devil proposes that God is not trustworthy, and goads Jesus into testing that relationship. But Jesus refuses. In each case, the devil seeks to undermine Jesus' confidence in both God and himself. He seeks, that is, to erode Jesus' confidence that he is enough, that he is secure, that he is worthy of God's love. And in the face of these temptations, Jesus quotes the sacred story of Israel in order to assert that he is a part of that story and therefore reaffirm his identity as a child of God.

David Lose, "Identity Theft"

Lord Jesus, You want honest words on my lips: no thought of mine is hidden from You anyway. Why does your providence have to move so slowly? I know that the seasons come and go in majestic sequence. The earth rotates on its axis in a predetermined rhythm. No prayers of mine could change any of this. I know that Your ways are not my ways; Your timing is not my timing. But Lord, how do I, so earthbound, come to terms with the pace of eternity? I want to be teachable, Lord. Is there something You want to show me, some block You want removed, some change You want in me or my attitudes before You can answer my prayer? Give me the gift of eyes that see, of ears that hear what You are saying to me. Come Lord Jesus, and abide in my heart. How grateful I am to realize that the answer to my prayer does not depend on me at all. As I quietly abide in You and let Your life flow into me, what freedom it is to know that the Father does not see my threadbare patience or insufficient trust, rather only Your patience, and Your confidence that the Father has everything in hand. In Your faith I thank You right now for a more glorious answer to my prayer than I can imagine.

Catherine Marshall, *Adventures in Prayer*, 1985

Monday Morning

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Luke 4

Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins
and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend
and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

Notice in this diabolical dialogue that Satan has with Jesus that Jesus responds to all three threats with Scripture. All three responses are from Deuteronomy. Jesus goes back to the faith of his childhood, that catechism he knew by heart, those rote prayers repeated so often that didn't leave him when he needed them the most. Have you experienced that kind of diabolical dialogue? You are tired, famished, bewildered and afraid. Things haven't gone as you planned or hoped. So you start to question: Maybe that Spirit-descending, voice-from-heaven moment was an illusion. If you are so beloved, why would God drive you here to this desolate place? Maybe you should rethink this manna-from-heaven, bread-of-life-blessed-and-broken call and take a shortcut. What's the harm in doing an end run around God's promise of provision and care? All's well that ends well, right? Take a few extra allotments of the manna, leave the fragments on the hillside, don't worry about feeding the hungry crowd. Isn't the first part of the Greatest Commandment to love yourself, after all? Building bigger barns is prudent. Burying the talents pragmatic. Haven't we justified so many of life's decisions with that diabolical dialogue? But Jesus goes to Deuteronomy, that part of the Torah that details what covenant relationship looks like, that tells and retells the story: A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down to Egypt and lived there as an alien; when we were afflicted, we cried to the Lord and the Lord heard our voice and brought us out of Egypt. This is who we are. This is who I am. This is who God is. This is the Word of the Lord we live by.

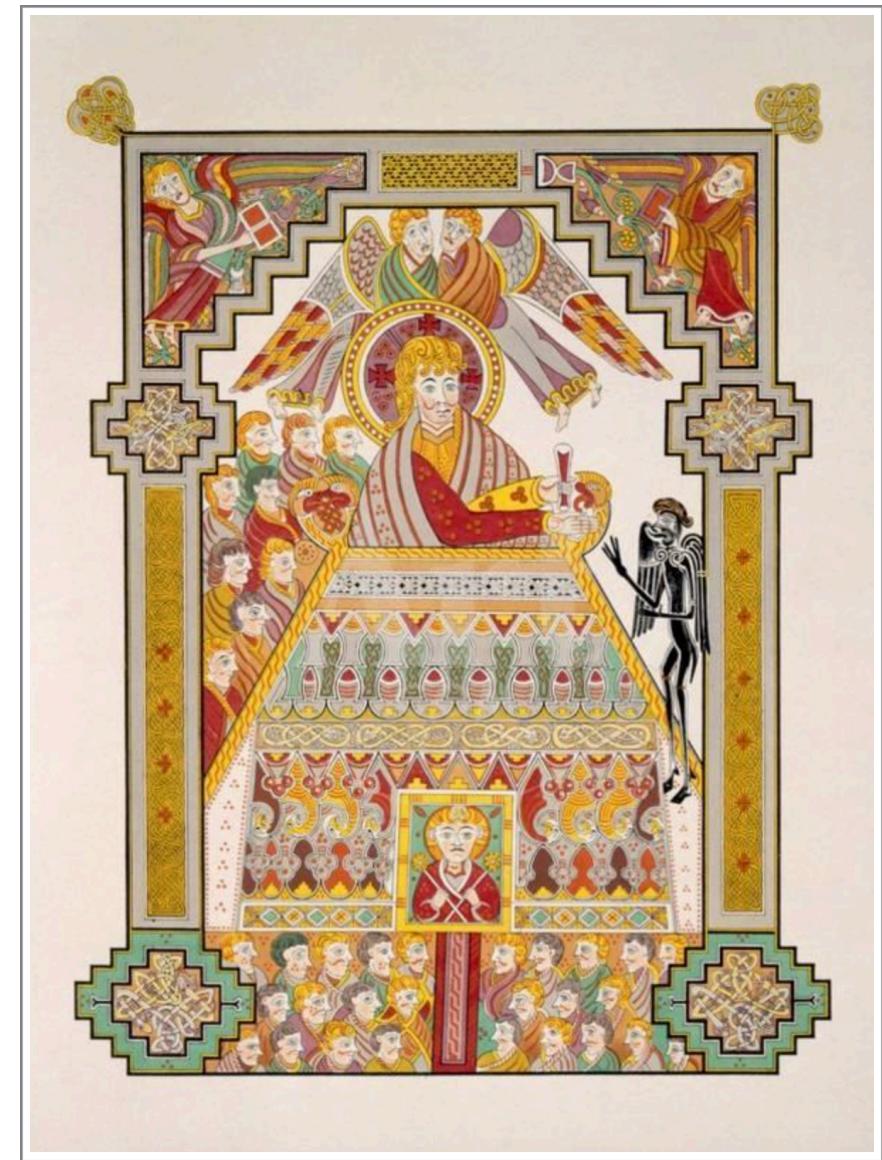
Jill Duffield, *Presbyterian Outlook*

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
How passing thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And He Himself to this world came.

For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast, and hungered sore;
For us temptations sharp He knew,
For us the tempter overthrew.

Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471



"Temptation of Christ" — Book of Kells, 9th century

As the wind is your symbol, so forward our goings. As the dove, so launch us heavenwards. As water, so purify our spirits. As a cloud, so abate our temptations. As dew, so revive our languor. As fire, so purge out our dross.

Desiderius Erasmus (1466–1536)