



# NORTHMINSTER

## *Presbyterian Church*

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

April 3, 2022

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

10:30am

### GATHERING

Greeting

Prelude

*Upon Thy Table, Lord*

arr Dale Wood

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 126

Remember when the Eternal One brought us back to life?

It was as if we were dreaming—

**Our mouths were filled with laughter;  
our tongues were spilling over into song.**

The word went out across the prairies and deserts,  
across the hills, over the oceans wide, from nation to nation:

**“The Eternal One has done remarkable things for them.”**

We shook our heads in awe.

All of us were stunned.

**We were beyond happy, beyond joyful.**

And now, Eternal One, some are held captive and poor.

Release them, and restore their fortunes

as the dry riverbeds spring to life when the rains come at last.

**Those who walk the fields to sow, casting their seed in tears,  
will one day tread those same long rows, amazed by what’s appeared.**

Those who weep as they walk

and plant with sighs

**Will return singing with joy,  
when they bring home the harvest.**

**With grateful hearts, let us continue this Lenten journey together.**

Hymn #65

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this baren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

## CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being;

**teach us wisdom in our secret hearts.**

Send out your light, send out your truth,

**and let them lead us back 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, your spirit will abide within us,

**and your eternal truth will set our spirits free.**

Then shall we love not only in word or in speech, but also in deed and in truth,

**and by this know that our service of you 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

**LISTENING**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Illumination

Scripture – Philippians 3:4-14

\*Hymn #703

*Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;  
O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!  
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone;  
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!  
All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;  
care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.  
O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

Scripture – Luke 9:10-17

Sermon in Words

**Lenten Leftovers of Love**

\*Hymn #516

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

With the saints who now adore you seated at the heavenly board,  
may the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;  
in the world to which you send us let your kingdom come, O Lord.

**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.**

## 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](mailto: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; Gene & Janet Kelly; Lynn Southerland; Steve, Helene, and baby Amelia Olk; Ricky Smith; Ann Weaver

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Joel Jones; Karen Nobles and family

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

### Easter Lilies

Due to unforeseen supply issues, this year Northminster will have three Easter arrangements provided by Jean & Hall in place of the potted lilies. Lilies contained in these arrangements will be dedicated to loved ones of the Northminster congregation. If you would like to have one or more lilies dedicated to your loved one(s), please fill out today's bulletin insert along with a donation of \$5 per lily.

### Presbyterian Special Offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities. Gifts for this offering will be collected Easter Sunday, April 17. Offering envelopes will be provided.

### 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

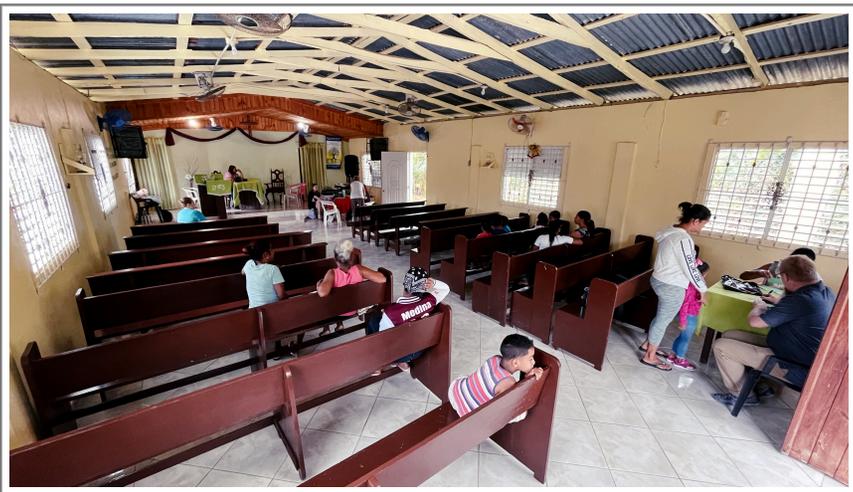
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Rather, the plea is for the value of praying in a way that reveals the legacy inherited from our Jewish forebears; that is shaped by both ecumenical and Reformed tradition and theology; a way that makes use of doxological narrative following biblical models; a way that is Trinitarian and eschatological, honoring the symbiotic relation between Lord's Day and Lord's Supper; a way that receives both past and future as a gift for the present moment, in confidence that where the community of Christ gathers around pulpit and table, Christ is there; and that where Christ is, the kingdom.

Ronald Byers, "Praying the Great Thanksgiving"

The church participates in God's mission to the world through its ministry and worship. Worship presents the reality of the divine rule which God has promised in Jesus Christ as the final renewal of creation. The worshiping community in its integrity before the Word and its unity in prayer and Sacraments is a sign of the presence of the reign of God. The church in its ministry bears witness to God's reign through the proclamation of the gospel, through works of compassion and reconciliation, and through the stewardship of creation and of life. Signs of God's reign are also manifest in the world wherever the Holy Spirit leads people to seek justice and to make peace.

Presbyterian Directory for Worship



## Monday Morning

The emissaries whom Jesus had sent out returned, and Jesus took them away from the crowds for a time of retreat in a city called Bethsaida. They gave Jesus a full report of their accomplishments and experiences.

But soon the crowds discovered where they were and pursued Him. Jesus didn't turn them away; He welcomed them, spoke of the kingdom of God to them, and brought health to those who needed healing.

Picture what happened while in Bethsaida, where Jesus and His disciples were spending time with the crowds:

The sun is low in the sky, and soon it will be dusk.  
The twelve come to Jesus with advice.

DISCIPLES: *Send the crowd away so they can find lodging and food in the nearby villages and countryside. We're out here in the middle of nowhere.*

JESUS: *No. You give them something to eat.*

DISCIPLES: *Are You kidding? There are at least 5,000 men here, not to mention women and children. All we have are five loaves and two fish. The only way we could provide for them would be to go to a nearby city and buy cartloads of food. That would cost a small fortune.*

JESUS: *Just do this: organize them in little communities of about 50 people each and have them sit down.*

They do what Jesus says, and soon groups of 50 are scattered across the landscape. Then Jesus takes the five loaves and two fish, and He looks up to heaven. He praises God for the food, takes each item, and breaks it into fragments. Then He gives fragments to the twelve disciples and tells them to distribute the food to the crowd.

Everyone eats. Everyone is satisfied. Nobody goes away hungry. In fact, when the disciples recover the leftovers, they have 12 baskets full of broken pieces.

Luke 9 — The VOICE translation

In [the communion] meal the Church celebrates the joyful feast of the people of God, and anticipates the great banquet and marriage supper of the Lamb. Brought by the Holy Spirit into Christ's presence, the Church eagerly expects and prays for the day when Christ shall come in glory and God be all in all. Nourished by this hope, the Church rises from the Table and is sent by the power of the Holy Spirit to participate in God's mission to the world, to proclaim the gospel, to exercise compassion, to work for justice and peace until Christ's Kingdom shall come at last.

*Presbyterian Directory for Worship*

My God, my Father, I lift up my heart to thee. Give me thy Holy Spirit. Grant me the grace to approach this table with humble repentance and ardent desire in Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant me to receive this holy sacrament with firm faith in thy word, that in receiving these visible signs from thy hand I may receive by faith the body and blood of Jesus Christ, who died for me as the nourishment of eternal life. May I take from it the peace and spiritual joy proper to thy children with ardent love for thee, my God, and a firm resolve henceforth to consecrate my life to thy service, until I see thy face and my soul is received by Jesus Christ my Savior, who has redeemed it by his death.

Pierre Du Moulin (Petrus Molinaeus) (1568–1658)  
Huguenot minister in France and England

We believe that at the Lord's supper the community of believers is renewed by the memory of Christ's life and death, by his real presence in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the promise of his coming again. Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of bread. He offers us his body broken for our sake and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We accept his promises and gifts and depend on his life to sustain ours. In turn we offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the risen Lord who has conquered death. So we celebrate his victory here and now and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom. Reunited around one loaf and cup, we receive strength and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world.

*Presbyterian Declaration of Faith*



"Feeding of the Five Thousand"  
relief on the door of the Grossmunster Church in Zurich, Switzerland

The Reformed liturgy, as embodied in its several late twentieth-century service books, owes no apology to anyone. It is quite as honorable, quite as beautiful, quite as theologically whole as any other. To find oneself in a Reformed setting where eucharistic prayer is taken seriously can be a source of great joy and delight. To hear the presider call out the universal words "Lift up your hearts!" may, indeed, stir the heart as the congregation responds, "We lift them to the Lord!" To advocate praying the eucharistic prayer in a certain way is not to presume that the Spirit cannot be at work in the sacrament even if the rite is improvised or minimized.

(continued)