



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

10:30am

GATHERING

Greeting

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Call to Worship

In anticipation we gather.

With expectation we wait.

We gather to watch for the coming of the good news
into our world and into our lives.

We wait to see the fullness of God's vision.

O God, open the doors to our hearts,

that this year we may have room for the birth of Jesus.

O God, as we marvel over all that you are doing,

overwhelm us with so much wonder

that words of praise spring forth from our lips!

In this time of waiting, let true worship begin in our hearts.

Let our praises rise up to the heavens!

Let our celebrations spread new hope over a tired world!

Let us gather together all our dreams and lives

to worship our God!

Amen.

Hymn #132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!

He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

God Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High, refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering our Offerings

Offertory Music

Doxology #606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

LISTENING

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Illumination

Scripture – Isaiah 35:1-10

Hymn #93 (remain seated) *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

Scripture – Luke 1:46-55

Sermon – “Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.”

Hymn #134, verses 1-2

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;

let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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 #134, verses 3-4

Joy to the World

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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.

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; Kathy Wheeler; Frank Clark; Lynn Southerland; Steve, Helene, and baby Amelia Olk; Ricky Smith; Tom Jones; Nancy Miles; Ann Weaver; Fran Mayhew; Kathy McCord

Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Joel Jones; Cindi Shuford Akins; Nelda Crow; Sara Walcott

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

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers today have been given to the glory of God by Ray & Kay Mosely in celebration of their 51st Anniversary.

Christmas Worship

All are invited to worship with us Christmas Eve at 6:00PM for our annual candlelight communion service. Because we will worship robustly on Christmas Eve, we will not hold a worship service on Sunday morning, December 25. However, Pastor Ralph and fiancé Deb are hosting a brunch at 10am Christmas morning, at the church, for anyone who would like to join them. They especially want anyone without family in town or otherwise alone that morning to come and fellowship. There is nothing for anyone to bring except themselves! They only ask that you RSVP so they have a happy headcount. Let Ralph or Jennifer know if you would like to attend!

Church Directory Updates and Photos

Throughout the Advent season, we will be taking photos and asking everyone to review the contact information we have for you. We plan to publish an updated pictorial directory at the start of 2023.

Christmas Joy Offering – December 18

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time on need.

End-of-year Giving

All donations received by Saturday, December 31 will be applied to the 2022 giving year. Jennifer will be in the office Friday, December 30th from 9:00-2:00 if you would like to bring your donation in.

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 GUNNER CHANCEY, Director of Music
KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

In-Office hours this week: Sunday, Monday, Thursday 9:00-1:00
Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911