



# NORTHMINSTER

## *Presbyterian Church*

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

January 29, 2023

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

10:30am

### GATHERING

Chimes

Greeting

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Isaiah 66:10-14

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
**all you who love her and all who love her God.**

Rejoice with her in joy,  
**all you who mourn over the world's sadness and grief.**

For thus says the Lord:  
I will extend prosperity to her like a river  
**and the blessing of the nations like an overflowing stream.**

You shall nurse and be carried on her strong arm  
**and bounced on her loving knee.**

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you;  
**you shall be comforted in Jerusalem, says the Lord.**

You shall see goodness, and your heart shall rejoice;  
**your lives shall flourish like the fresh grass,**  
and it shall be known throughout the world  
**that the power of the Lord is with God's people.**

Hymn #645

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of love, the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.

Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,  
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

## CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Awesome and compassionate God,  
you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,  
but we have not always loved you.**

**You constantly call us, but we do not always listen.  
You lead us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped up in our own small concerns.  
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.**

**God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,  
we repent in spirit and in truth,  
admit our sin,  
and gratefully receive your forgiveness  
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.**

**In his name, hear our confessions ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #610

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*verses 1-2*

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

Affirmation of Faith — 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 the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Prayers of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Gathering our Offerings

Offertory Music

Response — 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 – John 13, selections

Hymn #761 (remain seated)                      Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.

Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Scripture – Ephesians 5:21-23

Sermon – SISTERS OF JESUS: Just as Christ loved the Church

Hymn #324    *For All the Faithful Women*

For all the faithful women who served in days of old,  
to you shall thanks be given; to all their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly  
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;  
for Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,  
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.

We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan  
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.  
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb  
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.  
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.  
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,  
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

## DEPARTING

\*Benediction

\*Sung Response

Northumbria Community

May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.  
Grant you peace; perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.  
Lift up your eyes and see His face and His grace forever.  
May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

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; Kathy Wheeler; Frank Clark; Lynn Southerland; Tom Jones; Nancy Miles; Ann Weaver; 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); James Watwood

### Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers today are given to the grace of God by Jan Hirsh in loving memory and celebration of her 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Congregational Meeting

Today we will hold a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service to approve the pastoral terms of call.

### Bingo! – Youth Montreat fundraiser

All are invited to join us in the Fellowship hall after worship today for lunch and Bingo! Sponsored by our youth to help raise funds for this year's Montreat Youth Conference, they will provide chicken and ask you to bring a side to share.

## **Loaves & Fishes Donations**

The Loaves and Fishes Ministry of Macon is in need of food donations, including canned goods, vegetables, bottled juices, frozen meats and other nutritional foods. You are welcome to bring all non-perishables to Northminster for collection or take your foods (including perishables) directly to Loaves & Fishes at 651 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (478-741-1007)

### **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; Jeff Denny; Barbara Fatkin; Nita McCord; Jinny McDuffie; Ray Mosely; Michael Napier; Donna Shuford; 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

WWW.NORTHMINSTERMACON.ORG

All rights reserved, License #1244003

565 WIMBISH RD. MACON, GA 31210