



February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Unison Scripture – from Hebrews 12

**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him endured the cross,
scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.
Let us consider him who endured such opposition from sinful people,
so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.**

Opening Prayer

Prelude

Prayer of Adoration

O Christ, Savior, like the seed fallen to the ground, you suffered death.
United to you, our lives will bear much fruit.

We praise you, Lord.

O Christ, you went down to the lowest point of the human condition;
you remain close to all who are abandoned.

We praise you, Lord.

In your love you took upon yourself our sins;
innocent, you accepted death to free us from death.

We praise you, Lord.

By your love you conquered evil and hatred,
and you live forever at the Father's side.

We praise you, Lord.

You listen to us in your goodness, and you visit us in our misfortune;
fill our hearts to overflowing by revealing to us the light of your face.

We praise you, Lord. Amen.

Hymn #187

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In you pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession – based on Psalm 139

Search me, O God, and know my heart.
Try me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Prayers of Confession based on Psalm 130

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are worshipped.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in God's word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

**Almighty God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have often failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Hear our prayers ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #221

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

verses 1 & 3

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Dedication — based on Colossians 3

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people
whom God loves, you are to be clothed
in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience.

**Let us bear with one another, forgiving each other
if one of us has a complaint against another.
The Lord has forgiven us; so we must do the same.
Over all these layers, let us also put on love, the perfect bond.
And may the peace of Christ reign in our hearts,
because it is for this that we were called together in one body.**

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

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 — Matthew 4:1-11

Hymn #175 (remain seated)

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!

Scripture — Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Sermon — LEARNING TO LIVE IN LENT: Realizations

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.

Affirmation of Faith — based on the Presbyterian Confession of 1967

Our new life in God finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides us in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips us for our ministries.

As members of his church we are emissaries of peace and seek the good of humanity in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But we have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Our strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate God's work of creation and reconciliation beyond death, and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

DEPARTING

*Charge and Benediction

*Sung Response

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.

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; Kathy McCord - Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Joel Jones; 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 have been given to the glory of God by Sharon Sulkers in loving memory of Steve Sulkers.

If you would like to provide fresh flowers for Sunday morning worship, please write your request on the board in the back of the sanctuary. Arrangements are \$65 each and can be paid to the church; simply write "flowers" in the memo line of your check or on your offering envelope.

Men's Fellowship Dinner – Tonight at 6:00pm

Pastor Ralph and Elder Mike Napier invite all men, ages 10 to 100, to join us for a man-size dinner filled with great friends and conversation Sunday, February 26th at 6pm in the fellowship hall. Invite your friends and family to attend as well.

Women's Bible Study

Inviting all ladies! Women's Spring Bible Study will be held Wednesdays at 10^{AM} and 6^{PM} from March 1 to April 5 in the community room downstairs. The morning study will be led by Jeanne Roddenberry and Natalie Vernon. The evening study will be led by Virginia Cowsert and Lynn Denny. Please let us know on your blue response sheet which study you would like to attend.

Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale – March 12 after worship

Sunday, March 12th after the worship service, we'll enjoy one of our favorite times of year - the Annual Youth Chili Cookoff and Dessert Auction! All are welcome to participate and bring family and friends. This is a fabulous opportunity to continue helping to make sure our youth can attend the Montreat Youth Conference this summer. Sign-up sheets are in your weekly bulletin and you may reply to the weekly email letting us know how you'd like to participate.

Macon Recovers – Hygiene Pantry Restock

Our wonderful neighbors at Macon Recovers are holding a Hygiene supply drive from March 1 through April 30. Supplies requested include but are not limited to shampoo & conditioner, cleansing wipes, body wash, deodorant, wash cloths, shaving cream and more. You may drop off your donations Tuesday through Saturday between 11^{AM} and 7^{PM} next door at 595 Wimbish Rd.

Thank you to Northminster

Dear Church Family, I want to thank all of you for the calls, cards, prayers and love extended to Andy and I over the past year, and especially the past four months. You all mean so much to our family. Love, Ann Weaver

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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