



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

February 5, 2023

5th Sunday after Epiphany

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Greeting

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Mark 14:22-25

While the disciples were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread.

We gather in the name of our Lord to share in his common meal.

After blessing the bread he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

We give thanks to God for one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one body.

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

We celebrate today the bonds that draw us together in a fellowship of faith.

He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."

We lift up the name of Jesus, whose life was laid down for us and for all.

He said to them, "I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

We look ahead in faith and hope to the great and good day of the Lord.

Hymn #511

Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven

Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia! has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia! "Come! the banquet is prepared." Alleluia!

All is ready, come attend Alleluia! as the Lord's invited friend; Alleluia!
come from north, west, south, and east; Alleluia! celebrate the joyful feast. Alleluia!

All who trust in God belong Alleluia! at this banquet with this throng. Alleluia!
Share the mystic holy food; Alleluia! taste and see: the Lord is good. Alleluia!

As the Lord our God has willed, Alleluia! here the hungry soul is filled; Alleluia!
here the weary are refreshed. Alleluia! All who share God's feast are blessed. Alleluia!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Generous God,
yet have set before us a feast of faith,
a table of welcome and reformation,
signs and seals of your great faithfulness.**

**Forgive us, we pray,
for feasting too much on the world's empty promises
for losing sight again of just how precious is this life
for clinging to your love but not sharing it freely with others. (over)**

**At your table today,
feed us again.
Renew us again.
Send us out as blessings, again.**

In Jesus' 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 Study Catechism

Question 1. What is God's purpose for your life?

God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Question 2. How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.

Question 3. How do you live for the love of God?

I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.

Question 4. How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God constantly in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.

*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

Hymn #314 (remain seated) *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

verses 1-4

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

[*refrain*] Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. [*refrain*]

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [*refrain*]

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [*refrain*]

Scripture – Mark 7:24-30

Hymn #314 (remain seated) *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

verse 5

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Sermon – SISTERS OF JESUS: Of Demons, Dogs, and Determination

Hymn #509 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

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...**

Hymn #583

Glory to God

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy name, Thy Kingdome 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 the 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

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; 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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – February 21 at 5:30pm

As Ash Wednesday approaches, Northminster is preparing our heart, mind and spirit for the liturgy and lessons of the season of Lent. We are excited this year to revive one of our favorite traditions: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Tuesday, February 21, join us at 5:30pm for food and fellowship as we celebrate God's abundant blessings and prepare our hearts for a Lenten season of reflection and prayer. Cost is \$5 per person with a \$20 maximum per family.

Men's Fellowship Dinner

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.

Communion

As a body of Christ, we continue to share the bread and cup at Sunday worship on the first Sunday of each month. Pastor Ralph and committed elders then travel to Carlyle Place to serve monthly communion as well. Sunday, March 5, volunteers on our congregational care committee will not only see those at Carlyle, but will have another "Communion Blitz," sharing with homebound and isolated members at their homes. If you know of a member or close Northminster friend who should be included in these visits, please let Elder Genny Whitaker know.

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)

2023 Directory

The new 2023 pictorial directory is available for pick-up starting today!

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