



March 12, 2023

Third 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

From Bethlehem to Nazareth,
from Jordan to Jericho,
from Bethany to Jerusalem,
from then to now,
come, Lord Jesus.
To heal the sick,
to mend the brokenhearted,
to comfort the disturbed,
to disturb the comfortable,
to cleanse the temple,
to liberate faith from convention,
come, Lord Jesus.

To carry the cross,
to lead the way,
to shoulder the sin of the world
and take it away,
come, Lord Jesus.
Today,
to this place,
to us,
come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Hymn #182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

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.

**Merciful God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness how often we have failed
to be you messengers of forgiveness and peace.
Renew us again by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands of love
and proclaim your reign of hope,
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 Philippians 2

If then there is any encouragement in Christ,
any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit,
any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete:

**Let us be of the same mind, having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind.**

**Let us do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better than ourselves.**

**Let each of us look not just to our own interests,
but to the interests of others.**

*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 — Romans 5:1-11

Hymn #458 (remain seated) *Thy Word is a Lamp unto My Feet*

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Scripture — Exodus 17:1-7

Sermon — LEARNING TO LIVE IN LENT: Challenges

Hymn #839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

[*refrain*] This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [*refrain*]

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [*refrain*]

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 our 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

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.

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 – Today 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.

Easter lilies

Sunday, April 9th, we will have all-white arrangements containing our annual lilies. Please see your blue response sheet to let us know if you would like one or more lilies to be dedicated in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one. There is no set cost for the flowers, so we ask for a contribution in any amount to go towards the arrangements.

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

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WWW.NORTHMINSTERMACON.ORG

565WIMBISH RD. MACON, GA 31210