



March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of 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.

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.

**God of such providence and grace, You call us from death to life,
from despair to hope, from estrangement to love.**

**Forgive us when we forget your holy ways
and traffic in the paths of the world:
heeding the loudest voices, choosing only the popular
believing in lies.**

**We remember now, that your ways are not our ways.
Forgive us.**

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 – Ephesians 5:8-14

Hymn # 625 (remain seated)

O Lord My God

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill me heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!”
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

Scripture – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Sermon – LEARNING TO LIVE IN LENT: Character

*Hymn #757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plow-share out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spread a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

*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 Cowser and Lynn Denny.

Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale – Today after worship

Thank you to all who participated in our annual chili cookoff and bake sale. Our amazing auctioneer, Minor Vernon, not only led the dessert auction, but led the race to win best overall chili! Your generosity raised over \$1300 to help make sure our youth can attend Montreat this summer.

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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