



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Unison Scripture – from John 20:19-22

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,
and the doors were locked where the disciples were,
Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

**When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.”**

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Matthew 18:20

Joyful is the sound we make this morning!

For this day liberates us from doubt and fear.

Thankful is the song we sing!

For this day moves us past darkness and despair.

Hopeful is the prayer upon our lips!

For this day awakens in us long-awaited new life.

Jesus said, “Where two or more are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.”

Christ lives here and now.

He is among us at this and every moment!

May his peace and presence be known to you.

Let us worship God with one another with expressions of Christian love.

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

[*refrain*] Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. [*refrain*]

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [*refrain*]

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

If, at times, we deny you, God forgive us.
When the risks of discipleship are high,
and we are nowhere to be found:

God forgive us.

When we wash our hands of responsibility:

God forgive us.

When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors
and seek to buy freedom with silver:

God forgive us.

When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth,
or prejudice keeps us from believing it:

God forgive us.

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God, our sin is exposed.
But your power and your grace are also revealed.

**O God of such Life,
raise us in your love so that, with joy,
we may witness to your awesome deeds,
in the name of Jesus, the risen one.**

Hear our prayers ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #243

Be Not Afraid

Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!

Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!

Affirmation of Faith — from the 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, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering our Offerings for Ministry

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 20:19-22

Hymn #716 (remain seated) *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in heath and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Scripture — Galatians 5:22-26

Sermon — SO I SEND YOU: Practicing the Resurrection through Generosity

*Hymn #300

We Are One in the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
We will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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 & Evelyn 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

Baseball in the Dominican Republic

Northminster has an incredible opportunity to help get children and youth in the Dominican Republic off the streets and into a sport that can help them in amazing ways. If you have any baseball equipment – bats, gloves, cleats, balls, bases – collecting dust in your closets, please bring them to the church by April 30th. We are also collecting monetary donations to help with shipping of the donated equipment and providing purchase of additional equipment.

Opportunity for 2023 high school graduates

Today after church, our graduating seniors will have an exciting opportunity to gather as a small group and talk with member, Amy Maley, about budgeting, finance, and being money-savvy and talk with elder, Jeff Denny, about what to expect and how to handle those first years away from home and beginning college life. Lunch will be provided.

Youth Car Wash – April 29th

Come out to Northminster Saturday, April 29th between 10AM-noon to get your car washed. This is the final fundraising opportunity for our youth to attend the Montreat conference this summer. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

5th Sunday Lunch – April 30th

Nita McCord and the Northminster Session are excited to be rejuvenating our 5th Sunday lunches! These lunches are a blessed opportunity to come together after the worship service for food and fellowship. Mark your calendars for April 30th (please note – this is a correction from the April newsletter) and join us after worship for lunch. This will be a potluck-style meal, so please plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share. You may RSVP to Jennifer at admin@northminstermacon.org or sign up on your blue response sheet.

Honoring our Seniors – May 7th

Six of our youth will be graduating from high school this year, and we will honor them with a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship. Please plan to come and help us celebrate the accomplishments of Ella Cole Alderman, Kendall Emener, Ella Hawkins, Andy Preyna, David Preyna and Ella Smith.

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, Wednesday-Friday 9:00-1:00

Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911

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