



April 30, 2023

Fourth 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 Proverbs 2

Good friends, take to heart what I’m telling you;
collect God’s wisdom and guard it with your life.

**Tune our ears to the words of Wisdom;
set our hearts on a life of Understanding.**

That’s right—if you make Insight your priority,
and won’t take no for an answer,

**Searching for it like a prospector panning for gold,
like an adventurer on a treasure hunt.**

Believe me, before you know it Worship-of-God will be yours;
you’ll have come upon the Knowledge of God.

**And here’s why: God gives out Wisdom for free,
plainspoken in Knowledge and Understanding.**

God is a rich mine of Common Sense for those who live well,
a personal bodyguard to the wise and sincere.

**God keeps an eye on all who live honestly,
and pays special attention to God's loyally committed ones.**

So now you can pick out what's true and fair,
find all the good trails!

**Sister Wisdom will be our close friend,
and Brother Knowledge our pleasant companion.**

Good Sense will scout ahead for danger,
Insight will keep an eye out for you.

**They'll keep us from making wrong turns,
or following the bad directions of the world.**

Let us worship God now, in spirit and in wisdom.

*Hymn #240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

[*refrain*] Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. [*refrain*]

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen. [*refrain*]

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. [*refrain*]

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior. [*refrain*]

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Lord of all, bring new life where we are worn and tired;
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit
where we are prisoners of ourselves.**

[silent prayers]

**Thank you, O God, for Easter beginnings,
for empty tombs and fresh starts,
for breathing into our lives your saving-and-sending Holy Spirit.
In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.**

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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

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 the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Prayers of Intercession, the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

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 — John 20:19-22

Hymn #450 (remain seated)

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heaven-ward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach Heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Scripture – James 1:1-8

Sermon – SO I SEND YOU: Practicing the Resurrection through Wisdom

*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

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers this week are given to the glory of God by Pat McCall. "I am very blessed to be part of a congregation who is caring, loving, kind and helpful. Thank you for all your years of support. May God continue to bless you all.

Northminster T-Shirts

T-shirts featuring the late Gene Kelly's sketch of Northminster are available for pre-order! See your blue response sheet for the order form or email Jennifer at admin@northminstermacon.org. Shirts are \$20 each and any proceeds will go to our youth ministry.

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.

5th Sunday Lunch – April 30th

Join us after worship today for lunch. This will be a potluck-style meal, so please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you're able.

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

All rights reserved, License #1244003