



# NORTHMINSTER

## *Presbyterian Church*

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

May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:30am

### GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – Psalm 1

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
**or take the path that sinners tread**  
or sit in the seat of scoffers,  
**but their delight is in the law of the Lord,**  
and on God's law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
**which yield their fruit in its season,**  
and their leaves do not wither.  
**In all that they do, they prosper.**

The wicked are not so  
**but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment  
**nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,**  
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked will perish.**

\*Hymn #451

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

**CONFESSING**

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Holy God  
of love and light,  
forgive us when we have followed unholy advice  
or trafficked in the paths of a fallen world  
or sat too long in cynical, scoffing seats.**

**Instead, we want you to plant us  
by the streams of your living waters.  
We want to yield good fruit in season.  
In all we do, we want to prosper for your kingdom.**

**Forgive our many sins,  
heal our frequent errors,  
and chart our path afresh toward you.**

**Hear our prayers ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture – 1 John 5:9-13

Response to Forgiveness #581

*Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Affirmation of Faith – Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Guest Worship Offering: Rosa Taylor Praise Dance Team

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

Scriptures – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Hymn #346 (remain seated)

*For the Healing of the Nations*

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on human-kind;  
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

Scripture – John 17:6-19

Sermon – “Show Us The Way – Coming Full Circle”

Rev. Fairy Caroland

\*Hymn #250

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: but butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

## 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, guest preacher Rev. Fairy Caroland**

Rev. Fairy Caroland is a retired PCUSA minister, a native Tennessean, and has served churches there, as well as Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Florida. She has worked as a chaplain, campus minister, and counselor in the addictions field. She recently moved to Macon, and preaches for many of our churches here in Flint River Presbytery. You may accidentally see her in small acting parts in a few movies: Chasing Ghosts, Providence, The Least Of These, and Flowers For Fannie.

### **Welcome Rosa Taylor Elementary Praise Team**

Taylor Elementary's Praise Team, under the direction of Ms. Ashleigh Mansfield, collaborated this school year to provide a worship experience for several school programs. This unique praise team is made up of 5th grade students who expressed interest in worshipping through spiritual dances to others around them. They have had an opportunity to perform during Taylor's Annual Black History Program and Leadership Day. These young ladies have shown hard work and dedication through their practices and performances, and truly exude passion for worship through dance.

### **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](mailto: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 in honor of our homebound members, family, and friends. "My prayers are for those who are shut-ins. Please know you are loved and not forgotten. May the peace and blessings of God be with you."

### **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](mailto:admin@northminstermacon.org). Shirts are \$20 each and any proceeds will go to our youth ministry.

### **Pastor Ralph's Summer Schedule**

From May 15–31, pastor Ralph will be on vacation. In celebration of Ella's graduation from high school, they will be road-tripping around the state of Colorado — enjoying creation's great western beauty and, of course, riding a great many historic trains! If during that time you have need of a pastoral presence, please reach out to Jennifer in our office or elder Genny Whitaker (478-731-5248). They will have access to pastors in our presbytery cluster, such as Rev. Curtis White at St. Andrews church and our Executive Presbyter, Rev. Deb Tregaskis. Ralph's time away includes the Sundays of May 21 and 28. We are excited to have Rev. Fairy Caroland preach on May 21. Fairy is a retired PCUSA minister who recently moved to Macon and who worships with us from time to time. On May 28, Pentecost Sunday, our EP Deb Tregaskis will bring the preaching for us.

### **Youth Activities**

June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, the youth will gather at the church for dinner and a movie, showing Jesus Revolution. The youth will have additional gatherings throughout the summer, including a study on prayer and lake day, where all school-aged children will be invited! Dates and details are forthcoming. If you would like to help provide a meal or lead one of the per-planned lessons on any Sunday night, please let Donna Shuford know ([dwshuford@yahoo.com](mailto:dwshuford@yahoo.com)).

### **Pentecost Offering**

A foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. There will be a special offering envelope in your May 28 bulletin.

#### **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