



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Graduate Recognition

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Greeting

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Ephesians 4

Let us worship in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called.

Let us worship with all humility and gentleness, with patience,

bearing with one another in Christian love,

making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit,

just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of us all,

who is above all and through all and in all.

Thanks be to God!

*Hymn #649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #188

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loves so long ago, taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Scripture – Colossians 3:12-17

SHARING

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise...

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy name, Thy Kingdome 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

All who desire the communion meal are invited to come forward to the table, receive a portion of bread from the pastor, take a cup from one of the elders, and return to the pew. We will share in the cup together once everyone has been served.

Music during communion

CELEBRATING

Recognition and Blessing of Graduates

Ella Cole Alderman

Kendall Emener

Ella Hawkins

Andrew Preyna

David Preyna

Ella Smith

Affirmation of Faith — from the 1998 Presbyterian Study Catechism

Question 1. What is God's purpose for your life?

God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Question 2. How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.

Question 3. How do you live for the love of God?

I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.

Question 4. How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body, the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this community, I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God constantly in prayer. As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.

*Hymn #726

Will You Come and Follow Me

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should you life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call you name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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 – Acts 16:16-33

Sermon – GRADUATES: Get into some good trouble, will ya?

*Hymn #697

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

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 Catherine Woody in memory of her husband, R. Lynn Woody and her parents,

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. These cream-colored shirts are \$20 each and any proceeds will go to our youth ministry.

Baseball in the Dominican Republic

Thank you to all who have donated equipment and monetary gifts to Mission Homerun, helping youth in the Dominican Republic learn, grow, fellowship, and build a sense of pride through baseball.

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.

Pentecost Special 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. We will collect this offering Sunday, May 28th.

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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