



# NORTHMINSTER

## *Presbyterian Church*

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

August 20, 2023

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

10:30am

### GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 27 and John 4:23

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

We desire to live in God's house

**and to seek God in his holy temple.**

We have come with shouts of joy,

**to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths**

**in this hour of worship and always.**

Come, fellow Christians, let us join together in song.

\*Hymn #267

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice; praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen! Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend; his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen! Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore, singing forever more: Alleluia! Amen!

## CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Holy and merciful God,  
in your presence we confess  
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,  
and our offenses against your law of love.  
You alone know how often we have sinned  
in wandering from your ways,  
in wasting your gifts,  
in forgetting your love.  
Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
for we are humbled and sorry  
for all we have done to displease you.  
Forgive our sins,  
and help us to live in your light  
and walk in your ways,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Hear our prayers...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

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 – from the Presbyterian Declaration of Faith

We acknowledge one God alone, whose demands on us are absolute,  
whose help for us is sufficient.

That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love.

God comes to us on God's own terms

and is able to do far more than we ask or think.

**Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement.**

**His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion.**

**His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand.**

**His willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness.**

**Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.**

We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell.

The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will among all peoples of the earth.

We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe.

**We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help.**

**We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power.**

**We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God.**

**To worship God is highest joy.**

**To serve God is perfect freedom.**

\*Passing the Peace

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

#### Hymn 366 (remain seated)

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, never-more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

#### Scripture — Jeremiah 29:11-14

#### Sermon in Song — *If You Trust With All Your Heart*, arr. Courtney

#### Scripture — Luke 11:1-3

#### Sermon in Words — “If you search with all your heart...”

#### Hymn #269

*Lead On, O King Eternal!*

Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong,  
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;  
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears;  
your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light.  
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

## DEPARTURE

### \*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](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; Nancy Miles; Kathy McCord; Annette Hutto - 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); James Watwood

### Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Pat McCall with love for humanity. In these difficult times, we need to remember that everyone is a child of God regardless of our differences.

### Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

We have begun holding a drop-in coffee hour before the worship service. Doors open at 9:30am. Grab a friend and a cup of coffee and enjoy this casual hour of fellowship.

### Women's Fall Bible Study

This fall, Pastor Ralph will lead a 7-week Bible Study: Seven Sisters of Moses. All ladies are invited to attend either at 10:00am or 6pm every Wednesday from September 20 through November 1.

### 2023 Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for this year's annual women's retreat: Friday and Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Details are forthcoming.

### 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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