



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 89

We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

With our mouths we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens all around.

You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to my servant David and his people:

**‘I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.’”**

Praise the Lord!

We will sing of your steadfast love forever.

*Hymn #610

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner’s ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Eternal and merciful God,
you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding,
and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake. [*over*]

**Yet we have strayed from your way;
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
through what we have done and what we have left undone.
As we remember the lavish gift of your grace
symbolized in baptism, O God,
we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again.
Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin,
and to rise daily to new life in Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
and in whose strong name we pray.**

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 – 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

Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our Offerings

Offertory Music

*Response — Doxology #606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done, Creator, Christ, and Spirit one! Alleluia! O Praise God! Alleluia!

LISTENING

*Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Illumination

Hymn #410 (remain seated)

God Is Calling through the Whisper

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbor's urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – and we hear! God is calling – and we hear!

Scriptures – Joshua 2:1-21 and Hebrews 11:31

Sermon – “The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below.”

Hymn #694

Great God of Every Blessing

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

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; Jane Prentice; 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 Gwen Kitchens in loving memory of her husband, Beau and the wonderful years they shared together.

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 3rd and 4th. Details are forthcoming.

Office Hours

This week, the office will be closed Monday through Wednesday.

Rear Pew Ropes

We are thankful for our ability to live stream our worship services every week. With the digital age, many prospective members and friends will watch these streams and recordings before choosing to visit. We want those watching online to know we are a church full of Christ-followers and welcoming arms. Due to our camera's necessary placement, only the first few pews are fully visible, with 6-7 rows only being visible near the center aisle. We encourage as many members to sit in these visible areas as possible so that our online viewers are not seeing what appears to be an empty sanctuary. Thank you to all who are able to fill the sanctuary... on any row!

Fellowship Committee

We are getting our Fellowship Committee back up and running as an arm of Adult Discipleship. Discipleship comes easier when you've fellowshiped together. BUT, we need your help with this venture. If you're interested in being a part of the Fellowship Committee, please fill out the blue sheet in the bulletin or contact Nita McCord at 478-957-1947.

Planning for the Future

Do you have young children, grandchildren or friends that would love to be a part of Sunday School here at Northminster? We are making plans for this and are hoping that there will be lots of interest from the congregation. Of course, we will need teachers, and that's where you come in. If you would be willing to help teach, please contact Donna Shuford(478-718-6442) or Nita McCord (478-957-1947).

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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