



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

September 10, 2023

Fifteenth 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 #305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

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

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

Scripture – Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Hymn #286 (remain seated)

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

Scripture – Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon – “The Best Commandment”

Rev. Dena Hobbs

*Hymn #310

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God. Her walls before thee stand,
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways:
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.

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, Dena Hobbs

Dena Douglas Hobbs is the campus minister of Episcopal and Lutheran Fellowship in Macon and the co-author of *When Anxiety Strikes*. She is the proud mother of two young adults, wife to Jason, and dog mom to three spoiled hound dogs.

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 Sam & Jinny McDuffie.

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

Grab a friend and join us Sunday mornings for a cup of coffee and casual fellowship. Doors open at 9:30am.

Women's Fall Bible Study

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. See your insert for details.

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).

Rise Against Hunger

You are invited to join our sister Flint River Presbytery churches for our annual Rise Against Hunger packing event. Sunday, October 1st at 2pm, we will be helping to pack bags of nutrient dense dry foods to be shipped to areas of great need around the world. This year's event will be held at St. Andrews Presbyterian.

UKirk Annual Dinner Fundraiser

The UKirk Campus ministry's annual fundraising dinner will be held here at Northminster October 27th at 6pm. Tickets are \$30 and are available through Jeff Denny, Sam McDuffie, or Kim Emener.

2023 Women's Retreat

Who is this God we worship, whom we have called Maker, Redeemer, Friend, Lover, Rock, Light, Life—and Father, Son, Spirit? What images of God do we carry, and how have those been shaped by art, stories, and song? How do these images help us—and how might they hinder us—in our relationship to the God who is beyond all our imagining? In this retreat we will explore images of God, old and new, as we seek deeper living relationship to the Holy Three in One.

All this and three meals for a mere \$25.00. Please plan on joining us and bring a daughter, mother, grandmother, sister or friend. You may register by calling Jennifer at 478-318-7911, by email at admin@northminstermacon.org, or by signing up on your blue response sheet. Payments can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. If paying by check, please write "Women's Retreat" in the memo line.

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, Tuesday-Thursday 9:00-1:00

Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911

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