



# NORTHMINSTER

## *Presbyterian Church*

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

September 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

10:30am

### GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Ecclesiastes 3

There is a season for everything, a time for every matter of life:

**A time for giving birth, a time for dying;**

a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted.

**a time for knocking down, a time for building.**

A time for tears, a time for laughter;

**a time for mourning, a time for dancing;**

A time for keeping silent, a time for speaking.

**a time for war, especially a time for peace.**

Together let us worship the Lord of all our seasons.

\*Hymn #664

*Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation; praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!

## CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Timeless and generous God,  
you have met us in the face of Jesus.  
You have given us your Holy Spirit.  
You have blessed us with time to live and love.**

**Forgive us when we squander your precious gift of hours  
or act foolishly when we could be wise  
or hate others when we could love.**

**Outside your grace, we grope in the dark.  
Inside your grace, we see the way home.  
Free us from our past so we might be a blessing  
in your future.**

**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 – Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

\*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Prayers of Intercession and The 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.**

Gathering our Offerings

Offertory Music

*Total Praise*

arr. Raney

\*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 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Hymn #463 (remain seated)

*How Firm a Foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Scripture – Matthew 24:32-35

Sermon – STEWARDSHIP: "From the fig tree learn its lesson"

\*Hymn #365

*God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!*

God reigns! Let earth rejoice! Let oceans shout God's might!  
Borne up by truth and righteousness, God's throne is our delight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!

God's fire ignites the clouds with judgment swift and just;  
the evil find their deeds in vain; God's foes are brought to dust.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!

False idols rise to claim the weakness of our pride,  
but cannot touch the faithful ones, for God stands at our side.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!

The radiance of God's light beams joy into our days;  
now filled with God's own peace and love, our hearts resound with praise.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!

**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](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; 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 Martha Hopkins in celebration of her daughter, Michelle's birthday.

### 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.

### Hymns of Our Faith

Join us this evening at 6pm for a concert with organist Ted Babbitt and Northminster's music director, Gunner Chancey on piano.

### 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.

### 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.

### Rise Against Hunger

You are invited to join our sister Flint River Presbytery churches for our annual Rise Against Hunger packing event. Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. This special offering will be collected October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### UKirk Annual Dinner Fundraiser

The UKirk Campus ministry's annual fundraising dinner will be held here at Northminster October 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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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