



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth 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 #409

God Is Here

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Timeless and generous God, Lord of all seasons,
you have met us in the life of Jesus.
You have filled us your Holy Spirit.
You have gifted us with seasons for living and loving.**

**Forgive us when we
squander your precious gift of years
or act hastily when we could trust you,
or live as if we are one season when in fact it is another.**

**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 God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*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

You Think of Me

by Mock

*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 #175 (remain seated)

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!

Scripture – Matthew 24:32-35

Sermon – STEWARDSHIP: Tending to the changing seasons of our lives

*Hymn #450

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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; 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

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.

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.

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 1st.

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.

Sunday School

There's a saying, "Every family has secrets until a children's Sunday School teacher asks if anyone has prayer requests." That could be you, finding out about all the family secrets! All silliness aside, we invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a child and/or youth Sunday School teacher, helping to guide our young people through their walk with Christ. Please let Donna Shuford know if you're interested or mark your blue response sheet accordingly.

Youth Volunteers

Our youth have incredible times of fellowship when they gather for evening studies. These times include dinner, activities, and a lesson. If you're able to help with providing a meal, overseeing or planning an activity, or leading a pre-planned lesson, please indicate your willingness on your blue response sheet or let Donna Shuford know.

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 9:00-3:00

Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911

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