



October 1, 2023

World Communion Sunday

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Invitation to Word and Sacrament

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Ecclesiastes 3

There is a season for everything, a time for every facet of living:

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 up.

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 up.

A time for war, especially a time for peace.

Together let us worship the Lord of all our seasons.

*Hymn #41

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

O worship the King, all glorious above! O gratefully sing God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form; and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your power has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

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 the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering our Offerings

Offertory Music

Offertory

Beck

*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

Scriptures – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and Matthew 24:32-35

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

SHARING

*Hymn #509

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Sacrament of Communion for all God's people

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise...

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

All who desire the communion meal are invited to come forward to the table, receive a portion of bread from the pastor, take a cup from one of the elders, and return to the pew. We will share in the cup together once everyone has been served.

Music during communion

Closing Unison Prayer

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life.

**May this food strengthen us in love
and help us to serve you in each other.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

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

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers this week have been given to the glory of God by Rosie Miles in celebration of her nephew, Wren's, second 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.

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. This afternoon 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 is being collected today.

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

Our annual Fall Women's Retreat will take place November 3rd and 4th. We invite all women of all ages to this exciting event. Our event leader this year is Dr. Martha Moore-Keish of Columbia Theological Seminary. She will be leading us through "Exploring and Expanding our Images of God." Attendance is \$25 for the whole session and includes dinner on Friday as well as breakfast and lunch Saturday. We will gather Friday from 6pm-9pm and Saturday from 9am-2pm here at Northminster. You may register online at northminstermacon.org or in your bulletin's response sheet.

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.

5th Sunday Lunch

Bring a side dish or dessert to share and join us after worship October 29th for lunch. The youth and worship committees will be providing barbeque and hosting an exciting afternoon of trivia! We can't wait to see you there.

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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