



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Matthew 24:32-35

Jesus teaches us in the beauty of simple parables.

We give thanks for his fig tree, and the lessons he teaches.

By God's design, we are caretakers of living things.

As soon as a tree sprouts leaves, we know to expect summer.

So, too, we are called to bear fruit in each season of our lives,

and to discern what the Kingdom of God is doing in our midst.

Let us tune our spirits to sense God's *Holy Spirit*.

Let us worship God together, in spirit and in truth!

*Hymn #625

O Lord My God

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made,

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son no sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Creator God, maker of all things
past, present, and future.
You spoke and all of creation came to be.
You called forth life from the dust
and made all we see good and fruitful
and made us in your image.**

**Forgive us for wasting your precious gifts
for taking for granted your goodness
for not sharing what you have so freely shared.**

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

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 of 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 — Psalm 143

Hymn #645 (remain seated) *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

Scripture — John 3:1-15

Sermon — Lift High the Cross

DEPARTING

*Hymn #826 *Lift High the Cross*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod, the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, your death has brought us life eternally.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

*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; Laurie King - 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.

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.

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.

2024 Sunday School and Kick-off Dinner

As we draw closer to the new year, we look forward with excitement and rejuvenation. The Christian Education and Membership committees invite you to join us Wednesday, November 8th at 6PM as we propose ideas and plans for the 2024 year of Sunday School. Questions, comments, and concerns about Sunday School plans are welcome and encouraged. Please sign up on your blue response sheet and include any questions you may have so we can answer them at the dinner.

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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