



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church



October 22, 2023

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise God's holy name.

**Praise the Lord, O people of God
and forget not all God's wonderful blessings.**

Praise the Lord, you people of God,
you faithful ones who hear and share God's word.

**Praise the Lord, all God's earthly creatures,
who show forth God's mercy and abundance.**

Praise the Lord, all God's works, everywhere in his dominion.

People of God, let us praise the Lord!

*Hymn #687

Our God, Our Help in Ages

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offenses against you and others.**

**You alone know
how often we have strayed,
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.**

**Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we long to be whole.
Forgive our sins,
and help us to live in your light
and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

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

What do you profess about God our Father?

I believe in God our Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

And what do you profess about God in Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

And what do you profess about God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit; 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.

Gatherings of our offerings

Offertory Music

I Am Not My Own

arr. Courtney

*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

Hymn #370 (remain seated)

This Is My Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.

Scripture — Mark 2:1-12

Sermon — Lift high the cross... lift high the stretcher

DEPARTING

*Hymn #32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

*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 (Diboll) - Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson); James Watwood

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers in the sanctuary today have been given to the glory of God by Pat McCall in loving memory of her father, for his birthday, remembering and cherishing the blessing of his honorable, respectable, and loving presence in this world.

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.

Fall Festival at St. Andrews Presbyterian

Our sister church, St. Andrews on the corner of Forsyth Rd. and Bass Rd., invites all to join them for a fall festival October 29th. There will be a hot dog lunch at 12:15^{PM} (please RSVP for this to 478-474-4451 by Oct. 26th), Activities, games, and trunk-or-treat start at 1^{PM} and conclude by 3^{PM}. Costumes are welcome for all and there is no cost for this event.

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 6^{PM} 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.

Sunday School – A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus

Every Sunday, November 12th through December 17th, Pastor Ralph will lead a Sunday School discussion based on brief video lectures by Dr. Kenneth Bailey, a Presbyterian scholar and seminary professor in the Middle East for 40 years. Join us at 9^{AM} in the fellowship hall; a light breakfast will be provided.

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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