



November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 34

Gather around, children of God, listen to what I'm saying:

Let us learn how to love and revere the Eternal One.

I will praise the Eternal in every moment, through every situation.

Whenever we speak, our words will always praise God.

Everything within me wants to pay tribute to the Lord Everlasting.

Whenever the poor and humble hear of God's greatness, they will celebrate too!

Come and lift up the Eternal with me;

let's praise God's great name together!

*Hymn #667

When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Generous God —
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself —
You have called us to a life of love:
for you, for others, for truth and life.**

**Forgive us when we have not loved you
with our heart, mind, soul, or strength.**

**Forgive us when we have
seized love for ourselves
but remained stingy with others.**

Forgive us for loving only the lovely.

**In your mercy,
free us from our past,
speak to us today,
and lay out your path ahead.**

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.**

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

Hymn #215 (remain seated)

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this,
O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

Scripture — 1 John 4:7-21

Sermon — “There is no fear in love; complete love drives out fear.”

DEPARTING

*Hymn

God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him

God is Love, let heaven adore him; God is Love, let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heaven above,
God who breathes through all creation: God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love and Love enfolds us, all the world in one embrace:
With unailing grasp God holds us, every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod,
Then we find that selfsame aching deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving kindness guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love forever o'er the universe must reign.

*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; Catherine Wooddy - Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens; Joel Jones; Nelda Crow; Sara Walcott; Laurie King (Diboll); John & Louise Sallstrom - Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson); James Watwood

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers this Sunday have been given to the grace of God by Pat McCall in prayer – Please, God, teach us to love, respect and appreciate the life each person is given. Let's give thanks during this time of year that we are blessed. Amen.

Sunday Study – A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus

Every Sunday, November 12th through December 17th, Pastor Ralph will lead a Sunday Study 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. If you're unable to make it to the Sunday morning study, join us Wednesdays at noon in the Library for a duplicate study.

Youth Calendar

Sunday, November 26th after church, we'll put up the tree in the sanctuary. Lunch will be provided.

Lessons & Carols

We will have our annual Lessons & Carols worship service Sunday, December 3rd at our normal worship time of 10:30am.

Alternative Christmas Fair

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 3rd! Join us after worship for our Alternative Christmas Fair. This is an opportunity to give to a charity or mission of your choice in honor of someone special to you. It's a perfect gift! It always fits, never expires, and makes everyone feel good.

Thanksgiving Office Hours

Jennifer will be taking some vacation time the week of Thanksgiving. The church office will be closed Monday through Friday.

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

Office hours this week: Closed for Thanksgiving

Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911

All rights reserved, License #1244003