



# NORTHMINSTER

*Presbyterian Church*



November 26, 2023

Reign of Christ Sunday

10:30am

## GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 1:15-21

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 100

Raise your voices;  
make a beautiful sound to the Eternal, all the earth.  
**Serve the Eternal gladly;**  
**enter into God's presence singing songs of joy!**  
Know this: the Eternal One Himself is the True God.  
**He is the One who made us;**  
**we have not made ourselves;**  
**we are His people, like sheep grazing in His fields.**  
Go through His gates, giving thanks;  
walk through His courts, giving praise.  
**Offer God your gratitude and praise God's holy name.**  
Because the Eternal is good,  
His loyal love and mercy will never end,  
**and His truth will last throughout all generations.**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners leap to loose their chains;  
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;  
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

### CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Awesome and compassionate God,  
you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,  
but we have not always loved you.  
You constantly call us, but we do not listen.  
You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,  
wrapped in our own concerns.  
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.  
God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,  
we repent in spirit and in truth,  
admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness  
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.**

**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

Scripture – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Hymn #187 (remain seated)

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.  
In you pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.  
Keep you flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

Sermon – Hide and Seek with Jesus

### DEPARTING

\*Hymn #175

*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!

\*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](mailto: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 Woody, Roland and Judy Hill - 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 Nancy Sasser in loving memory of her son, Jonathan Killen.

### Sunday Study – A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus

Every Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> through December 17<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>AM</sup> 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

This Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> at our normal worship time of 10:30am.

### Alternative Christmas Fair

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>! 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.

**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

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