



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

January 7, 2023

Baptism of the Lord

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning, God created everything:
the heavens above and the earth below.

It was God who said: Let there be light!

At first the earth lacked shape and was totally empty,
and a dark fog draped over the deep
while God's spirit-wind hovered over the surface of the emptiness.

It was God who said: Let there be light!

And light flashed into being!
God saw that the light was beautiful and good,
and God separated the light from the darkness.

It was God who said: Let there be light!

God named the light "day" and the darkness "night."
Evening gave way to morning. That was day one.

It was God who said: Let there be light!

*Hymn #35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**O God of Day and Night,
who called forth such beautiful light
from the deep dark nothingness,**

**we confess just how often
things get all jumbled up
and smushed together in our lives.**

**We confuse the Light and dark.
We muddle Love and hate.
We frivol away Something into nothing.**

**Free us. Forgive us. Fashion us anew
in the image and likeness of Jesus,
in whose name we pray...**

Scripture – Luke 2:1-6

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #482

Baptized in Water

verses 2

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

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 – Genesis 1:1-5

Sermon – Something Sacred out of Nearly Nothing

SHARING

*Hymn #14

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

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

*Hymn #509

All Who Hunger, Gather Freely

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.

*Charge and Benediction

*Sung Response

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind blow at your back. May the sun shine warmly on your face, may the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen

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; 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); John & Louise Sallstrom; Betty Shuford - Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson); Nicholas Sanchez (Kathy McCord's godson)

Sunday Study Continues in 2024

Beginning January 7th, we will start three 6-week sessions of multi-generational Sunday studies! These sessions will be led by some of the amazing faculty of Mercer's Department of Religion. The first, Christian Ethics as faithful Innovation, will be led by Paul Lewis. The second series, Lent for Everyone, will be led by Brian Whitfield. The third series, Do Pharaohs Still Exist, will be led by Janell Johnson. We hope you will plan to come. We'll be gathering at 9:00 with a light continental breakfast. Childcare will be provided for our youngest members, and we're hard at work on more plans for children and youth.

Christian Ethics as Faithful Innovation – Sunday Study

Paul Lewis will be leading our first six-weeks of Sunday Study beginning January 7th. Paul has been a professor in the School of Religion at Mercer since 2002 with a specialty in Theological Ethics. We'll share more biographical details later. If you would like a copy of the book that Paul will be using in this study, please indicate this on your blue response sheet and we will order them as a group. Each hard-copy book is \$18 and the ebook is \$9. The link to information about the book can be found at <https://www.helwys.com/sh-books/faithful-innovation>. The book is certainly not required for this study, but is simply being made available for those interested.

Elder Installation

Sunday, January 14, after our Elders and Elders-Elect have held an informational retreat here at the church, we will install our 2024 elders-elect during worship.

Congregational Meeting

January 28, we will hold a congregational meeting after worship to approve pastor Ralph's 2024 Terms of Call.

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: 9:00-3:00 Tuesday-Thursday; 7:00-1:00 Sunday

Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911

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