



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

February 18, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Isaiah 43:19-21

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**We rejoice in our God, who made a way
through the desert of this world.**

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

We praise God for the grace that has saved us.

Alleluia!

We rejoice!

*Hymn #187

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.

In your 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 your 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.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being;
teach us wisdom in our secret heart.
Send out your light, send out your truth,
and let them lead us to our home.
Take from us the weight of our sin,
that room might be made for the spirit of truth.
If we prepare a dwelling place, that spirit will abide within us,
and the truth will set our spirits free.
Then shall we love not only in word or in speech;
then shall we love in deed and in truth,
and by this know that our service is faithful.
O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being;
teach us wisdom in our secret heart.
Hear our prayers ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Remembering our Baptisms

Scripture – Mark 1:9-15

Response to Forgiveness #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!

Affirmation of Faith – from the Presbyterian Declaration of Faith

**Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers
that enslaved and degraded people,
yet he made no use of power to protect himself.
He healed those who were sick in body and mind,
yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself.
He commanded his followers to place loyalty to God
above loyalty to family and country,
yet he lived among them as a servant.
Jesus taught with authority,
challenging many time-honored customs and ideas,
yet he submitted to humiliation and death
without a word on his own behalf.**

**He forgave sinners, yet he was counted among sinners.
 We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority.
 He did what only God can do.
 We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness.
 When he lives as a servant and went humbly to his death
 the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest.
 In both his majesty and lowliness
 Jesus is the eternal Son of God,
 God himself with us.**

*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!

Prayers of Intercession, 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.

LISTENING

Scripture – 1 Peter 3:18-22

Hymn (remain seated)

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Je - sus walked this lone - some val - ley, He had to walk it by Him - self; O,
 We must walk this lone - some val - ley, We have to walk it by our - selves; O,
 You must go and stand your tri - al, You have to stand it by your - self, O,

no - bod - y else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Him - self.
 no - bod - y else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by our - selves.
 no - bod - y else can stand it for you, You have to stand it by your - self.

Sermon – The just for the unjust

DEPARTING

*Hymn #686

God of Our Life

God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee.
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land. Be thou our guide.
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be.
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

*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; John & Louise Sallstrom - Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson); Nicholas Sanchez (Kathy McCord's godson); James Watwood; Dawson Everett (Gwen Kitchens' great-nephew)

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers today are given to the glory of God by Sharon Sulkers in loving memory of her husband, Steve.

Lenten Bible Study – Beginning February 21

Join us for a 7-week Lenten series featuring videos from the late Dr. Kenneth Bailey on Jesus' instructions for prayer (Matthew 6) and Paul's love language (1 Corinthians 13). Women can meet Wednesday mornings at 10am in the community room with discussion led by Jeanne Roddenberry and all are invited to attend Wednesday evenings at 7pm via Zoom with discussion led by Ralph Hawkins.

Youth Movie Night – March 3

All Middle and High Schoolers are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, March 3, at 4^{PM} for a movie and discussion.

Children's Sunday School – Beginning March 3

All Elementary children (K4 through 5th grade) are invited to attend Sunday School beginning March 3 at 10:00_{AM}. We'll have a quick lesson with a craft and a morning snack. All children will join their parents for the worship service at 10:30. If you are interested in volunteering to teach or assist a teacher with a lesson, please let us know on your blue response sheet. Lessons can be provided your you can create your own.

Backpack Ministry Assistance

The backpack ministry, which packages and delivers 26 bags each week for children in need at Rosa Taylor Elementary School, can use more plastic grocery bags. If you have extra bags at home, please bring them to the church any Sunday. This ministry would also benefit from additional pairs of hands. We would love to have teams of two delivering these 26 *very* full bags of food. If you're interested in helping, please let Amanda Smith know. (Amanda.smith@mountdesales.net)

Potted Easter Lilies

Every year, Northminster congregants help fill our sanctuary with potted Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday. These flowers represent beautiful memories of loved ones who have died. Please see your blue sheet for information about having a lily for your loved one(s). After worship, lilies can be taken home or taken to someone you know who could appreciate their beauty. Cost is \$12 each; checks can be made payable to the church with "lilies" in the memo line.

Choir – Wednesdays at 7_{PM}

We are so thankful for our wonderful choir, under the direction of music minister Gunner Chancey, who fill our sanctuary with prayerful praise through song every Sunday. We'd love to see YOU join them in the loft. Choir practices are held each Wednesday at 7_{PM} in the choir room downstairs (entrance at the back of the building near the playground) and warm-up at 10_{AM} Sunday morning before worship.

Sunday Study at 9_{AM}

Join us for Sunday Study at 9_{AM} in the fellowship hall. Today began a 6-week series led by Dr. Bryan Whitfield. Bryan is teaching from the book Lent for Everyone Year B, Mark by NT Wright. Books (used as aids, but not required for the study) will be available for purchase next Sunday, February 25th, for \$20 each. A light continental breakfast is 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; Mark Brown; Jeff Denny; Barbara Fatkin; Nita McCord; Michael Napier; Donna Shuford; Amanda Smith; Minor Vernon; Gail Walker

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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