



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

February 25, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on 1 Corinthians 2

In Lent, we welcome the way of the cross — Jesus' cross,

who said "deny yourselves and take up your cross and follow me."

And we remember the apostle's instruction:

We do not come proclaiming the testimony of God with elitist speech or wisdom.

We want to know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

And so we come in weakness and in humility and in much trembling.

We seek, not persuasive words of human wisdom,

but a demonstration of the Spirit and of God's power,

so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

This is the way of the cross.

*Hymn #826

Lift High the Cross

[*Refrain*] Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [*Refrain*]

All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. [*Refrain*]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. [*Refrain*]

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. [*Refrain*]

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**God of such mercy,
you are full of tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive.
Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ alone,
that in every way we may prove to be your loving children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Hear our prayers ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Remembering our Baptisms

Scripture – Psalm 22:23-31

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 – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, 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

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 – Mark 8:31-38

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 Way of the Cross

Rev. Dr. Bryan Whitfield

DEPARTING

*Hymn #726

Will You Come and Follow Me

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*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 guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Bryan Whitfield

We are excited to welcome Dr. Bryan Whitfield back to our pulpit. Bryan is professor and chair for the Columbus Roberts Department of Christianity at Mercer University and serves a multitude of churches throughout Middle Georgia and beyond, through his teachings.

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; 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)

Lenten Bible Study – Wednesdays through March 27

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 4PM 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 10:00AM. 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 7PM

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 7PM in the choir room downstairs (entrance at the back of the building near the playground) and warm-up at 10AM 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.

Communion Blitz

Sunday, March 3rd, as we share in communion together in worship, we will also have teams of Congregational Care committee members heading out after worship to take communion to our homebound members.

Good Sam Sundays

Did you know that every month we donate \$400 a month through our self-funded Good Sam fund to Centenary Community Ministries? This nonprofit group uses the money to assist local people with unexpected expenses and bills. In addition, we purchase bus passes to be handed out at Loaves and Fishes Ministries to their clients. The Good Sam fund also helps with local community needs that become known as well as assisting our own congregation. Beginning March 3rd, we will collect a special donation on Communion Sundays to fund this important outreach. Envelopes will be in the bulletin on Communion Sundays.

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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