



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

March 3, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 19

The Eternal's teaching is perfect,

turning lives around.

His words are reliable and true,

instilling wisdom to open minds.

The Eternal's directions are correct,

giving satisfaction to the heart.

God's commandments are clear,

lending clarity to the eyes.

The awe of the Eternal is clean,

sustaining for all of eternity.

The Eternal's decisions are sound;

they are right through and through.

They are worth more than gold—

even more than abundant, pure gold.

They are sweeter to the tongue than honey

or the drippings of the honeycomb.

May the words that come out of our mouths

and the musings of our hearts

meet with Your gracious approval,

O Eternal, our Rock and Redeemer.

*Hymn #450

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

LISTENING

Scripture – 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Sermon in Words – The foolishness of God

Sermon in Song – *God's Own Fool*

*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!

Hymn #525 (remain seated)

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Merciful God, in Christ you make all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.**

Hear our prayers ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Remembering our Baptisms

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!

SHARING

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 #372

O for a World

O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.

We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich; the weak are strong;
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

*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; 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)

Youth Movie Night – Today

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

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.

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.

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.

Children's Sunday School

All Elementary children (K4 through 5th grade) are invited to attend Sunday School 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.

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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