



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

March 10, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 107

Let us give thanks to the Eternal, for God is good
and that loyal love lasts forever.

Let all those redeemed by the Eternal –
those rescued from times of deep trouble –

let them join in giving God great thanks.

God has gathered them from across the earth,
from east and west, from north and south.

May we all erupt with praise and give thanks to the Eternal
in honor of God's loyal love and marvelous mercy.

Let us present to God thanksgiving sacrifices
and tell stories of His great deeds through songs of joy!

*Hymn #612

We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you have made us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless
until they rest in you.
Give us purity of heart
and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
no weakness keep us from doing it;
that in your light we may see light clearly,
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in whose great name we pray ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture – John 3:14-21

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!

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

*Response — Doxology #606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen

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 – Ephesians 2:1-10

Hymn #649 (remain seated) *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Sermon – For we are what God has made us...

DEPARTING

*Hymn #716

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

*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)

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. 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.

Children's Sunday School – seeking donations

All Elementary children (K4 through 5th grade) are invited to attend Sunday School 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. Our children's ministry would also appreciate donations of glue sticks, crayons, tape, scissors, markers, or other craft supplies. Please bring any of your donated items to church any Sunday morning.

Easter Lilies

Every year, Northminster congregants help fill our sanctuary with 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.

Maundy Thursday Service – March 28

We will hold our annual Maundy Thursday worship service March 28th at 6PM.

5th Sunday Fellowship Meal

Typically, we share lunch together after worship on the last Sunday of a month with five Sundays. Since this month holds the same, but falls on Easter, we will share breakfast at 9AM instead. Sunday School will not be held. Please let us know on your blue response sheet if you plan to attend.

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 9AM

Join us for Sunday Study at 9AM 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. 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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