



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:30am

GATHERING

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

This is the good news—the grave is empty;
Christ is risen from the dead.

Hallelujah! God be praised!

This is the good news—
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out.

Hallelujah! God be praised!

This is the good news—
once we were no people;
now we are God's chosen people.

Hallelujah! God be praised!

Christ is our peace,
an indestructible peace
we now share with each other and the world.

Hallelujah! God be praised!

*Hymn #246

Christ Is Alive!

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

CONFESSING

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.

**We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead elsewhere.
We overlook the poor and the hungry
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed
and indifferent to calls for true peace;
we despise the weak
and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

Hear our prayers ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture — John 13:31-35

Remembering our Baptisms

Response to Forgiveness #553 *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen*

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. (*repeat*)

Affirmation of Faith — Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

*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

Hymn #716 (remain seated) *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.

Scripture — 1 Corinthians 13, selections

Sermon — The Size and Shape of Resurrection Love

DEPARTING

*Hymn #300 *We Are One in the Spirit*

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord; we are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand; we will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other; we will work side by side; we will work with each other;
we will work side by side, and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus,
God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

*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 - 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)

Church-Wide BINGO! – April 28

You're invited to join us in the fellowship hall right after worship Sunday, April 28th, for food and fun! Chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This annual activity helps raise funds for our youth to attend Montreat in the summer.

Children's Sunday School

All children are invited to attend Sunday School at 9:30^{AM}. We'll have a lesson with a craft and a morning snack. All children will join their parents for the worship service at 10:30.

Sunday Study at 9^{AM}

Join us for Sunday Study at 9^{AM} in the fellowship hall. The next 6-week study led by Janell Johnson, "Do Pharaohs Still Exist," will continue through May 19th. A light continental breakfast is provided.

Visit from the Haugens – May 5

Sunday, May 5th, we are excited to welcome our supported missionaries, George and Jeanne Haugen! During our regular 9:00 Sunday School hour, you're invited to see a presentation from George updating us on their mission work in the Middle East. (Our regular Sunday School lessons will resume May 12th.) They will be joining us in worship as well. It's a Sunday you don't want to miss.

Youth Montreat Carwash – May 11

Be sure to swing by the church Saturday, May 11 between 1^{PM}-3^{PM} to get your car washed by the Northminster youth! This annual fundraiser will be the final one, helping with all Montreat Youth Conference expenses in June.

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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WWW.NORTHMINSTERMACON.ORG

565 WIMBISH RD. MACON, GA 31210