



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

August 11, 2024

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30AM

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – based on 1 John 4

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us

and send the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God...

... but if we love one another, God abides in us,

and God's love is perfected in us.

Hymn #14

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Triune God –
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself –
we bless you for your lavish grace
poured out on us in giving us Jesus your Beloved.**

**Forgive us, we pray,
for the times we are so stingy with your love –
with our neighbors
with those we dislike or hate
with the world you have made
even with ourselves.**

**Set us free from all fear and anxiety
that our love might be an echo of your love
in Jesus, our Beloved Savior.**

Hear our prayers of confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture – 1 John 4:1-6

Response to Forgiveness #630

Fairest Lord Jesus

verses 1 & 4

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

Remembering our Baptisms

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; 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

Welcoming New Members – Cannon Family

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

*Doxology #606

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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.

Hymn #749 (remain seated)

Come! Live in the Light!

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Sermon – Testimony about the great gift of second chances

*Hymn #316

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son.
As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.

Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

*Charge and Benediction

*Sung Response

Northumbria Community

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

Postlude



Information & Announcements

Welcome Friends and 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 in the red book located in the pew so we can follow up with you and make a place for you in our weekly fellowship.

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; Annette Hutto; Jeff, Lynn, Josh and Hannah Denny - Current Friends and Family Concerns: Margaret Yawn; Donna Carole Kitchens - 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); Carter Eddlemon (Doug & Carol Holt's grandson)

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers this week are given to the glory of God by Virginia and Ell Hall in honor of their mother, Ann Hall, celebrating her 89th birthday.

Christmas in July

Throughout this month, we will be gathering gifts for our backpack ministry supporting our neighbor, Rosa Taylor Elementary school. Each year, members of our neighborhood committee pack over 900 bags filled with ready-to-eat or easy-to-prepare foods and deliver them to Rosa Taylor where 26 students every week, throughout the entire school year, will be sure not to go hungry over the weekend. Please prayerfully consider giving to this ministry.

Children's Sunday School

All children *as well as their friends and neighbors* are cordially invited to join us at 9:30AM every Sunday morning! We will be sharing stories of Jesus from the New Testament, enjoy story-related activities, and refreshments will be included.

Ushers and Greeters

We are in need of ushers and greeters to welcome our church family and guests on Sunday mornings. Please check the new sign-up board in the foyer to volunteer your smile on a Sunday that works for you!

Birthday Cards

Beloved member, Jane Ebey, will celebrate her 90th birthday August 18th. Jane has been homebound under care at Carlyle Place here in Macon and we want to make sure she knows she is in our thoughts on this milestone birthday! We are asking members to write a birthday card to Jane and bring it to church with you by Sunday, August 18th, at which time pastor Ralph and a member of our congregational care committee will take the cards and sanctuary flowers to Jane after worship. Thank you so much for your help making all our members feel God's love through your kindness and friendship.

Veritas Classical Education

Veritas Classical School will start their second year in our building this August. We are excited to have this exceptional homeschool program right here at our church. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Veritas, you can contact their Macon campus administrator, Michele, at 478-733-3241 or veritaswelcome@veritasschoolsmg.com

Adult Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School in the Fellowship hall at 9AM as Pastor Ralph leads us through “Good Thinking about the Good Book” a Bible study about the Bible itself.

Men’s Breakfast – August 14

All men are invited to gather at H&H Restaurant Wednesday, August 14th at 7am for breakfast and fellowship. This is a dutch treat event.

Lake Day – August 24

Saturday, August 24th, all members and friends are invited to kick off the new school year with a day at Lake Tobosofkee. This event is hosted by members, Allen & Barbara Fatkin at their home in Macon, starting at noon-until. A picnic-style main course will be provided and we ask all attendees to bring a side or dessert to share. Let us know on your blue response sheet if you plan to attend.

Confirmation Kick-off – September 21-22

First Presbyterian Church of Thomaston, GA is hosting a presbytery-wide weekend retreat for all youth (in grades 6 through 12) who have not yet completed confirmation. This retreat will also serve as Northminster’s kick-off event to our own confirmation class.

5th Sunday Lunch – September 29

We will celebrate Northminster’s 60th year of making disciples, growing in faith together and serving others in Christ over lunch in the fellowship all September 29th following the worship service.

Women’s Bible Study – October 2

All women are invited to join this year’s fall Bible study where Ralph will be teaching based on the book of Philippians. This study begins Wednesday, October 2 with a morning session at 10^{AM} and an evening session at 6^{PM}. Stay tuned for details.

Rise Against Hunger – October 6

We will host this year’s presbytery-wide Rise Against Hunger packing event. Stay tuned for details.

2024 Northminster Express – October 19

This year, the Northminster Express will be riding the rails in scenic Blue Ridge, Georgia! We are currently taking reservations for our group tour aboard the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway. Tickets are \$68 for adults and \$48 for children between the ages of 2-12. We will depart from Northminster via chartered bus Saturday, October 19th at 6am and return around 5:30pm. See your flyer insert for additional information.

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

Summer office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00-1:00; Sunday 7:00-1:00; Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911