



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

August 25, 2024

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30AM

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – adapted from Psalm 103

O dear souls, come, praise the Eternal with me.

**With all that is in us—body, emotions, mind, and will—
every part of who we are—let us praise God's holy name.**

O dear souls, come, praise the Eternal together;

**sing a song from our grateful hearts;
sing and never forget all the good God has done.**

Despite all our many offenses, God forgives and releases us.

God reaches deep into the pit to deliver us from death.

God crowns us with unfailing love and compassion like a savior.

When our souls are famished and withering,

God fills us with good and beautiful things, satisfying us as long as we live.

God makes us strong like an eagle, restoring our spirits. Amen!

*Hymn #15

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind with clouds and rain, you nurture gifts of fruit and grain. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear, make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on our way,
sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home.
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart. Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Lord,
Savior God,
you have drawn us together into salvation.
We gladly gather!**

**As we follow Jesus, though,
our own shortcomings remind us
of how often we have broken our relationship with Christ.
Because we have sinned against you,
our service to him and others often fails to be what it could be.**

**We treat him as a temporary solution.
We sometimes go through mere motions.
We are distracted instead of his disciples.**

**Renew us, we pray, according to your steadfast love.
Remind us of your covenant faithfulness
and have mercy on us in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Hear our prayers of confession ...

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture – 1 John 1:5-9

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

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.

Scripture – John 9:1-41

Hymn #458 (remain seated)

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. (Refrain)

Sermon – A late-summer quick refresher on the venerable Apostles' Creed – "I Believe"

*Hymn #463

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

*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 Gwen Kitchens in loving memory of her husband, Beau.

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.

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.

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!

Veritas Classical Education

Veritas Classical School has begun their second year with us. 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

Cards that Care – August 25

Today, we invite all who enjoy crafting to join us in the fellowship hall after worship for a fun project. As Jeff and Lynn Denny travel to Duke Cancer Center for Jeff's treatments, they know God is also giving them an incredible opportunity to share His love with others undergoing cancer treatments and we are excited to be a part of that. Duke has an encouragement corner where patients can find all kinds of uplifting things to remind them others are thinking of them. Sunday, we will make cards to be placed in this corner to share love with patients there. If you have paper crafting supplies you'd like to bring, you are welcome to do so. Light lunch will be provided.

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.

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
KAREN JONES, Clerk of Session JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

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