



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

September 22, 2024

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30AM

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – adapted from Psalm 66

Sing out to God, all the earth.

Sing with joy to the one True God!

Sing of the glory due God's good name!

Offer the Lord the most magnificent praises!

Say to God, "All You have done is wondrous and causes awe!"

Your power is mighty, and you have done marvelous things.

The entire earth will bow down to worship You

and will sing songs to You;

they will sing praises to Your name!

Sing out to God, all the earth.

Erupt with joy to the one True God!

*Hymn #641

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

Affirmation of Faith – 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 God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession – based on Psalm 51

**Merciful God,
you forgive all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.**
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.

**Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
In your great compassion,
cleanse us from our sin.**

Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Do not cast us from your presence,
or take your Holy Spirit from us.

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Hear our prayers of confession ...

Scripture – Colossians 2:11-14, The Message

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #658

God is So Good

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.
God cares for me; God cares for me; God cares for me; God's so good to me.
God loves me so; God loves me so; God loves me so; God's so good to me.
God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.

Remembering our Baptisms

*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.

Hymn #805 (remain seated)

Come Sing to God

Come sing to God, O living saints; sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent; God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night with sighs of deepest pain,
yet joy comes with the morning sun, a peace that is not vain.

In my success I felt secure; how good you've been to me.
I said that this is my own work, ascribing all to me.
But when you turned aside your face, my life was filled with fears.
I begged for help; to you I cried with loud and bitter tears.

What good is gained by my disgrace, what profit in defeat?
My grave cannot confess your name, nor praise for you repeat.
Now hear, O Lord, my plaintive cry; be merciful to me.
Accept my longing heart's request and from death set me free.

You change my grief to joy-filled dance; my sorrows you destroy.
In faithfulness you hear my cry and fill my life with joy.
And so to you my heart shall sing; my voice your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore. My life shall sing your praise.

Scripture – Philippians 1:1-11

Sermon – Paul's Prayer for the Maconites, part II

*Hymn #744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

*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 Taylor Morton!

The session is pleased to announce the hiring of Taylor Morton as our Interim Music Director for the fall. Taylor sang in our choir during his undergraduate years at Mercer University, and since then he has served two congregations as music director. He is a life-long Presbyterian; he lives in Atlanta with his parents, supporting them through a season of health concerns. Our thanks to Pat McCall, Amy Maley, Frank Ellis, Jeff Denny, and chair Michael Napier for leading this search for us. You can contact Taylor at (678) 641-4767 or gtmorton123@gmail.com

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.

Ongoing Prayer Requests: Our Flint River Presbytery and campus ministries

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; Susan Garrett (colleague of Gregg Reed, cancer diagnosis) - Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson); Nicholas Sanchez (Kathy McCord's grandson); James Watwood; Dawson Everett (Gwen Kitchens' great-nephew); Carter Eddlemon (Doug & Carol Holt's grandson)

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers today have been given to the glory of God by Kari & Ella Cole Alderman in celebration of Sam and Sambo's September birthdays.

Children's Sunday School & Nursery

Every Sunday, we have nursery available beginning at 9^{AM}. All children are welcome to arrive at 9 so parents may participate in Sunday School. Children will participate in their own Sunday School lesson and activities at 9:30 and will join their family to begin worship at 10:30. Nursery is still available through the end of worship.

Adult Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School in the Fellowship hall at 9^{AM} 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!

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}. See your bulletin insert for details.

Peace & Global Witness Special Offering – October 6

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this offering for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. This offering will be collected Sunday, October 6.

Rise Against Hunger – October 6

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

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