



Confirmation 2024-25
Northminster Presbyterian Church
October 27, 2024

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 32:11

This is the hour set aside to worship God and praise the name of the Lord.

Express your joy! Be happy in God, you who are good and true.

Shout and rejoice aloud, you whose hearts are honest and straightforward.

This is the space set apart for Book, Bath, and Meal — the signs and seals of God's love.

Express your joy! Be happy in God, you who are good and true.

Shout and rejoice aloud, you whose hearts are honest and straightforward.

This is the gathering of Jesus' people, the tribe of his followers and friends.

Express your joy! Be happy in God, you who are good and true.

Shout and rejoice aloud, you whose hearts are honest and straightforward.

*Hymn #611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee!

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.

Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.

Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.

Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession — based on the teachings of Jesus

Lord Jesus, you said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

Forgive us our lukewarm love and our distracted disobedience.

Lord, you said, "You may ask for anything in my name."

Forgive us when we think we need to solve all of our own problems.

Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety.

Lord, you said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

Forgive us our barren lives, Lord, and the vanity of wasted time.

Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you have been with me."

We confess, Lord, that we have been too often silent.

Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

In this and in so many other ways,

we confess our failures and shortcomings.

Hear our prayers of confession ...

Scripture – John 3:14-17

Assurance of Forgiveness

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!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!

Remembering our Baptisms

Confirmation 2024-25 Commencement

Carolyn Goode
Natalie Vernon
Isabel Davis

Elizabeth Goode
Betty Lamb
Rosie Miles

Rebecca Goode
Kim Emener
Sarah Morrow

CJ Preyna
Frank Ellis
Austin Emener

Matthew Preyna
Sandra Ridgeway
Al Fatkin

*Affirmation of Faith — from the 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

Moment for Stewardship 2025

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 #726 (remain seated)

Will You Come and Follow Me

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Scripture – Luke 24:13-35

Sermon – Confirmation: Recognizing the stranger Jesus

*Hymn #837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

*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.

Ongoing Prayer Requests: Our Flint River Presbytery and campus ministries

Current Member Concerns: 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 godson); 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 Lala Scales in loving memory of her husband, Jimmy.

Youth Meeting – TODAY

The youth will have a Halloween-themed meet-up this afternoon at 4^{PM} here at the church. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend!

Committee Meetings – November 10th

For most committees, this will be the final meeting of 2024. If you would like to join one of the following committees, or simply sit in on a meeting to see what it's all about, please contact the corresponding elder.

Men's Breakfast – November 13th

All men are invited to gather for breakfast together at H&H Restaurant downtown (807 Forsyth St.) at 7^{AM}. This is a dutch treat activity.

Thanksgiving Lunch – November 17th

Our Fellowship/Adult Discipleship committee will be hosting Thanksgiving Lunch Sunday, November 17th following the worship service. The menu will feature Roasted pork loin with apricot sauce, sweet potato casserole, green beans, salad, bread and for dessert, slices of Lynn Davis' famous cakes! To help us cover the cost of food, we are asking \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12 with a family cap of \$25.

Small Group Fellowship in 2025

Fellowship groups will be to build connections, deepen relationships, and to share in prayer and mutual support. These church-wide groups will be multi-generational, co-ed, and will include 10 to 12 people each. There will be a leader selected within each group, to coordinate gatherings. The groups will start in January 2025 and continue until June, taking a break for the summer. If you are interested in participating in a small group, please indicate this on your blue response sheet.

Sunday School – Every Sunday morning

Adult/Youth Sunday school will continue through December 15th in the fellowship hall at 9^{AM}. Children's Sunday school continues throughout December 22nd at 9:30^{AM}. All children, grades 5 and under, are welcome to arrive at 9^{AM} so parents may participate in Sunday School. Childcare remains available through the end of worship.

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