



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

January 5, 2025

Second Sunday of Christmas

10:30am

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Psalm 147

O people of God, praise the Eternal!

O children of the Lord, praise your God!

For God's divine power reinforces your city gates,
blesses your children in the womb.

**God establishes peace within our borders,
fills our markets with hearty golden wheat.**

God's command ripples across the earth;
God's word runs out on swift feet.

**God blankets the earth in wooly snow,
scattering frost like ashes over the land.**

But then God dispatches a Word, and the thaw begins;

at God's command, the spring winds blow, gently stirring the waters back to life.

O people of God, praise the Eternal!

O children of the Lord, praise your God!

Scripture – John 1:1-18

*Hymn #459

O Word of God Incarnate

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky: we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The church from you, dear Savior, received this gift divine; and still that light is lifted
on all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,
amid the rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.

O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold to bear before the nations
your true light, as of old; O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace,
till, clouds and storms thus ended, we see you face to face.

Sermon – Jesus: “Close to the Father’s heart”

Hymn #459, verse 1 (remain seated) *O Word of God Incarnate*

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky: we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture – Ephesians 1:3-14

*Response to Forgiveness #630 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

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.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

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

*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 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

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

*Hymn #525 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Remembering our Baptisms

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise...

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

All who desire the communion meal are invited to come forward to the table, receive a portion of bread from the pastor, take a cup from one of the elders, and return to the pew. We will share in the cup together once everyone has been served.

Music during communion

Unison Prayer

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life.

May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

*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)

Adult/Youth Sunday School

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare first asked that question, on the lips of his famous heroine Juliet. But we who study scripture might ask it as well. The Bible offers a wide and gorgeous array of names for God, and exploring them together will no doubt surface rich insights for our worship, our praying, and our witness to the world. Starting January 5, Pastor Ralph will lead a 6-week Sunday morning study exploring many of the Bible's inspired names for the Divine. Come join him downstairs in the community room at 9:00AM.

Children's Sunday School

Children will meet downstairs in room 123 at 9:30AM every Sunday morning. For adults wanting to attend Sunday School, you may take your children to the nursery room upstairs by the kitchen to wait with a leader until children's Sunday School begins.

Backpack Ministry Volunteers

The backpack ministry is currently looking for volunteers who would be able to stock the boxes containing the backpack food. This task would take place twice a month August through November and January through May and once the month of December. If you are interested in joining the backpack ministry volunteers in this capacity, please contact Jennifer at admin@northminstermacon.org or 478-318-7911.

Men's Breakfast – January 8th

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

Session Retreat – January 10-11

Our 2025 Session will be meeting for their annual retreat Friday afternoon, January 10th, and Saturday, January 11th. All current and former elders should have received an invitation in the mail for the examination dinner, held Friday, January 10th at 6PM. Please RSVP to that invitation by January 3rd.

Elder Installation – January 12th

Our 2025 elders will be installed during the worship service, Sunday January 12th.

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