



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

10:30am

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship — based on Isaiah 53; Matthew 3:17 and 17:5

God said, “This is my Son, with whom I am pleased.”

**But this one has no splendor,
no beauty we would fancy.**

“This is my child, in whom I take delight.”

**But this one carries the load of a servant,
not the scepter of a king.**

“This is my child, whom I have called.”

**But this one demands justice from all earth’s nations;
his words shall judge our own.**

“This is my child, whom I uphold.”

**But this one would release the unjustly imprisoned;
he would set the captives free.**

“This is my child, whose hand I hold.”

But this one is a man of sorrows; he is no stranger to grief.

“This is my child; I give him to you.”

**Surely this child will bear our suffering on his shoulders
and carry our rejection in his heart.**

Wounded for our transgressions,
he will be cut off from the land of the living.

**Like sheep we have gone astray;
like a lamb he shall be led to the slaughter.**

And still our God declares it:

**“This is my beloved child,
with whom I am well pleased.**

Listen to him.”

*Hymn #482

Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Lord God,
you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan River
and anointed him with the power of your Holy Spirit
to proclaim good news to all people.

**Forgive us
sanctify us
wash us clean
by that same Spirit,
that our lives may proclaim
the healing power of the gospel
by acts of love in your name.**

**Hear our prayers of confession,
for our lives and for the world ...**

Scripture – Isaiah 43:1-5

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Hymn #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

*Affirmation of Faith – 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 God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

*Hymn #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 – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon – Jesus' baptism, our ordination, and the gathering of good wheat

Hymn #688 (remain seated)

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

verses 1-3

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King; all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

Remembering our Baptisms

Ordination and Installation of Elders-Elect

*Hymn #688

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

verses 4-5

Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh. Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh. Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame;
the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

*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. Pastor Ralph will lead a study through February 9th 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.

Annual Chili Cookoff and Bake Sale – January 26th

Sunday, January 26th, immediately following worship, join us for our annual chili cookoff and bake sale. Anyone wanting to bring a dessert for the auction or bring your chili for the competition, please let us know on your blue response sheet. All funds donated through this event will go to our youth ministry.

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