



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

March 9, 2025

1st Sunday of Lent

10:30am

Chimes

Call to Worship — from Hebrews 12:2-3

Now let us stay focused on Jesus,
who designed and perfected our faith.

He endured the cross and ignored the shame of that death
because He focused on the joy that was set before Him;
and now He is seated beside God,
on the throne, a place of honor.

Let us consider the life of the One who endured such burdens
so that we will not grow weary or lose heart in our own trials.

Prelude

Opening Prayer

*Hymn #187

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Shared Prayers of Confession

O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being;
teach us wisdom in our secret heart.
Send out your light, send out your truth,
and let them lead us to our home.
Take from us the weight of our sin,
that room might be made for the spirit of truth.
If we prepare a dwelling place, that spirit will abide within us,
and the truth will set our spirits free.
Then shall we love not only in word or in speech;
then shall we love in deed and in truth,
and by this know that our service is faithful.
O Lord, you desire truth in our inward being;
teach us wisdom in our secret heart. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #184

Calm to the Waves

Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, "Peace be still."
Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In stillness, hear his voice. [*repeat*]

Remembering our Baptisms

*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

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

Hymn #647

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.

Prayer 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 #450

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Scripture – 2 Corinthians 4

Sermon – "We do not lose heart"

Hymn #175

Seek Ye First

*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); Cody Hynes; Wendy Rodin (Bernadette Preyna's niece) - Military Personnel Prayer List: Austin Riley; Joshua Sulkers; Isaac Falkenstine (Bonnie Diboll's grandson); Nicholas Sanchez (Kathy McCord's godson); James Watwood; Carter Eddlemon (Doug & Carol Holt's grandson)

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the weekly flower arrangements, whether in celebration of a special event or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the board in the foyer. Arrangements are \$65 (payable to Northminster) and can be taken home with you or gifted to one of our homebound or sick members.

Adult Sunday School

March 9th through April 13th, Bryan Whitfield will lead us through N. T. Wright's Lent for Everyone: Luke, Year C, available at this site - <https://a.co/d/9oZUTDr>. There will be no Sunday School Easter Sunday. April 27-May 18, Andrew Gardner from Mercer University, will lead "Confronting Christian Nationalism." We will then break for the summer.

Ushers and Greeters needed

Each week, we are blessed to be welcomed through our doors with joy and smiles. We would love for YOU to be one of those smiling faces. Our greeters also usher during the offering, passing the offering plates along the pews. If you are able to volunteer in this capacity, please sign up on the board in the foyer.

Children's Sunday School

Children 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.

Women's Spring Bible Study

All women are invited to gather for Bible Study beginning Wednesday, March 12th at 10AM in the community room. Jeanne Roddenberry will be leading our ladies through Elijah by Priscilla Shirer. Books are available for purchase by anyone who would like; cost is \$17 and can be made payable to Northminster with "Bible Study" in the memo line.

Easter Lilies

Every year, Northminster congregants help fill our sanctuary with Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday. This year, we will have both potted lilies and bud-vase lilies. These flowers represent beautiful memories of loved ones who have died. Please see your blue sheet for information about having a lily for your loved one(s). After worship, lilies can be taken home or taken to someone you know who could appreciate their beauty. Cost is \$12 each; checks can be made payable to the church with "lilies" in the memo line.

5th Sunday Lunch

Sunday, March 30th, the outreach committee will host 5th Sunday lunch with a taco bar following the worship service in the fellowship hall. Please let us know if you plan to attend starting next week on your response sheet or by calling, texting, or emailing Jennifer (478-318-7911 or admin@northminstermacon.org)

Men's Breakfast – March 12

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.

Outreach Committee Meeting – March 16

The outreach committee will be meeting in the library after church Sunday, March 16th. All who would like to be part of this committee, or would simply like to learn more of what it's about, please join us!

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: Mark Brown; Barbara Fatkin; Amy Maley; Nita McCord; Michael Napier; Renea Preyna; Gregg Reed; Jeanne Roddenberry; Amanda Smith; Gail Walker
RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate
JENNIFER WHITEHEAD, Ministry Assistant

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

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565 WIMBISH RD. MACON, GA 31210