



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

March 23, 2025

3rd 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 #166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Shared Prayers of Confession

Lord Jesus,
for forty days you fasted and prayed
in the wilderness of our sin and sorrow.
You won a victory against all temptation.

As we confess our sins again
and lean no longer on our own strength,
[over]

give us the grace likewise
to fast and pray
to walk our wilderness
to triumph over temptation.

"Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last."

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness #184 (repeat)

Calm to the Waves

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, 'Peace, be still.'" Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still-ness, hear his voice." The score includes various musical notations such as chords, notes, rests, and a repeat sign at the end.

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 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 #647 (remain seated)

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 Kingdom 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 #458 (remain seated)

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

Scripture – 2 Corinthians 4

Sermon – "We have this treasure in clay jars"

*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 - 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 at 10AM in the community room every Wednesday through April 23rd. Jeanne Roddenberry will be leading our ladies through Elijah by Priscilla Shirer.

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 & BINGO!

Sunday, March 30th, the outreach committee will host 5th Sunday lunch with a taco bar following the worship service in the fellowship hall. We will also be hosting our youth's annual Bingo! fundraiser. Bingo card sets are \$15 for 12 cards or \$25 for 24 cards. Please let us know if you plan to attend on your response sheet or by calling, texting, or emailing Jennifer (478-318-7911 or admin@northminstermacon.org)

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