



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

April 27, 2025

2nd Sunday of Easter

10:30am

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Opening Prayer

O Jesus, in your resurrection, the heavens and the earth rejoice.

Alleluia!

By your resurrection you broke open the gates of hell, and destroyed sin and death.

Keep us victorious over sin.

By your resurrection you raised the dead, and brought us from death to life.

Guide us in the way of everlasting life.

By your resurrection you confounded your guards and executioners,
and filled the disciples with gladness.

Give us joy in your service.

By your resurrection you proclaimed good news to the women and apostles,
and brought salvation to the whole world.

Direct our lives as your new creation.

Receive our Easter worship as our praise. Amen.

*Hymn #232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

Almighty God,
in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.

**We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn;
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for peace;
we despise the weak,
and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power
to change our lives and make us new,
that we may know the joy of life abundant
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.
In his name, hear our prayers ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture – Romans 6:1-11

Remembering our Baptisms

Hymn #238 (remain seated)

Thine Is the Glory

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

[Refrain] Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. *[Refrain]*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *[Refrain]*

*Passing the Peace

Announcements and Invitations

Gathering of our Offerings

Offertory Music

*Response #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.

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 #239 (remain seated) *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture – John 16:29-33

Sermon – Gratitude for the witness of Jorge Mario Bergoglio

*Hymn #753 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

*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

April 27-May 18, Andrew Gardner from Mercer University, will lead "Confronting Christian Nationalism." We will then break for the summer.

Congratulations, 2025 Graduates!

We will be celebrating our high school graduates, Sam Alderman and Hannah Denny, during worship Sunday, May 12th.

Children's Sunday School – Summer Schedule

Although the school year is winding down, we are excited to continue children's Sunday school June 29th! We continue to meet downstairs in room 123 starting at 9:30^{AM} for lessons, crafts, and snacks. We will break for the month of July and return August 3rd.

Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, May 14th at 7^{AM}. Join us at H&H Soul Food Restaurant in downtown Macon for breakfast together and discussion of the life of Davis, beginning with, "Stories" – 1 Samuel 16-31. This is a dutch treat activity.

Summer Reading Group

All are invited to celebrate with us, the 100th birthday of Georgia's own legendary Catholic novelist, Flannery O'Connor. We'll read a half dozen of her wild and wonderful stories from *The Short Stories of Flannery O'Connor*, then take a field trip to explore her home in Milledgeville. Our reading group will meet every two weeks in the evening via ZOOM. Stay tuned for dates, times, and short story selections! Led by Pastor Ralph and Betty Lamb.

Fall Women's Retreat

Ladies, mark your calendars for October 24-25 for our annual women's retreat and start thinking about who you can invite to participate. This year's theme is "The Tree of Life: Israel's Sages on the Search for Wisdom" featuring Dr. Christine Roy Yoder, the Richards Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur.

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

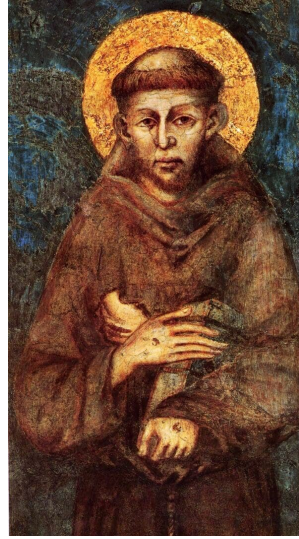
RALPH HAWKINS, Pastor and Teaching Elder PAUL EVANS, Parish Associate

SAM ALDERMAN, III, Interim 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

All rights reserved, License #1244003

Lord,
make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life.



St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

The church participates in God's mission to the world through its ministry and worship. Worship presents the reality of the divine rule which God has promised in Jesus Christ as the final renewal of creation. The worshiping community in its integrity before the Word and its unity in prayer and Sacraments is a sign of the presence of the reign of God. The church in its ministry bears witness to God's reign through the proclamation of the gospel, through works of compassion and reconciliation, and through the stewardship of creation and of life. Signs of God's reign are also manifest in the world wherever the Holy Spirit leads people to seek justice and to make peace.

Such acts of compassion, done corporately and individually, are the work of the church as the body of Christ. The church is called to minister to the immediate needs and hurts of people. The church is also called to engage those structures and systems which create or foster brokenness and distortion.

God calls the church in worship to join the mission of Jesus Christ in service to the world. As it participates in that mission the church is called to worship God in Jesus Christ, who reigns over the world.

Presbyterian Directory for Worship

Monday Morning

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.



Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:1-17

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus, in Matthew 5

“ ”

When the votes reached two-thirds, there was the usual applause, because the pope had been elected. And Cardinal Claudio Hummes gave me a hug and a kiss and said: 'Don't forget the poor!' And those words came to me: the poor, the poor. Then, right away, thinking of the poor, I thought of Francis of Assisi. Then I thought of all the wars, as the votes were still being counted, till the end. Francis is also the man of peace. That is how the name came into my heart: Francis of Assisi. How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor!

I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. The hypocrisy of those consecrated men and women who profess vows of poverty, yet live like the rich, wounds the souls of the faithful and harms the church.

In certain cases, this can include the help of the sacraments. Hence, 'I want to remind priests that the confessional must not be a torture chamber, but rather an encounter with the Lord's mercy.' I would also point out that the Eucharist 'is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.'

Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love.

Let us not forget: if we want to assist the poor, we must not only be, in some way, alongside them; we have to be willing to spend our time with them.

A people has a future if it goes forward with both elements: with the young, who have the strength, and things move forward because they do the carrying; and with the elderly because they are the ones who give life's wisdom.



Reforming Rome is like cleaning the Sphinx with a toothbrush.

Let us learn, then, to experience wonder. Please do not lose the capacity for wonder. Let us learn to take nothing for granted, especially love: that of God and that of the people we meet.

There is much that we can do to benefit the poor, the needy and those who suffer, and to favor justice, promote reconciliation and build peace. But before all else we need to counter the dominance of a one-dimensional vision of the human person, a vision which reduces human beings to what they produce and to what they consume: this is one of the most insidious temptations of our time.

But what does freedom mean? It is certainly not doing whatever you want, allowing yourself to be dominated by the passions, to pass from one experience to another without discernment, to follow the fashions of the day; freedom does not mean, so to speak, throwing everything that you don't like out the window. No, that is not freedom! Freedom is given to us so that we know how to make good decisions in life!

Peacemaking calls for courage, much more so than warfare. It calls for the courage to say yes to encounter and no to conflict: yes to dialogue and no to violence; yes to negotiations and no to hostilities; yes to respect for agreements and no to acts of provocation; yes to sincerity and no to duplicity. All of this takes courage, it takes strength and tenacity.

But what do we mean by "love"? Is it only a feeling, a psychophysical state? Certainly, if that is it, then we cannot build on anything solid. But if, instead, love is a relationship, then it is a reality that grows, and we can also say by way of example that it is built up like a home. And a home is built together, not alone!

Jesus reveals the heart of God: He is always merciful towards all; he heals our wounds so that we can love each other as siblings.

Never underestimate the power of a smile.

Northminster's Fall Women's Retreat

October 24-25, 2025 • Friday evening and Saturday morning



The Tree of Life:

Israel's Sages on the Search for Wisdom

featuring **Dr. Christine Roy Yoder**
the Richards Professor of Biblical Interpretation
at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur



Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks. — Proverbs 1:20

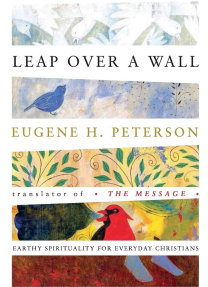
Northminster's Monthly Men's Breakfast



SECOND Wednesdays of every month @ 7am
H&H Soul Food Restaurant • downtown Macon

The Life of David

May 14 — STORIES — 1 Sam 16-31	Sep 10 — FRIENDSHIP — 1 Sam 18-20
June 11 — NAMES — 1 Sam 16:1-13	Oct 8 — SANCTUARY — 1 Sam 21-22
July 9 — WORK — 1 Sam 16:14-23	Nov 12 — WILDERNESS — 1 Sam 23-24
Aug 13 — IMAGINATION — 1 Sam 17	Dec 10 — BEAUTY — 1 Sam 25



Northminster's Summer Reading Group



The Short Stories of Flannery O'Connor

We're celebrating the 100th birthday of Georgia's own legendary Catholic novelist. We'll read a half dozen of her wild and wonderful short stories, then take a field trip to explore her home in Milledgeville.

Our reading group will meet every two weeks in the evening via ZOOM.

Stay tuned for dates, times, and short story selections! Let by Pastor Ralph and Betty Lamb.