



NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

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

May 18, 2025

5th Sunday of Easter

10:30am

Chimes

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

This is the good news— the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

Hosanna! Amen.

This is the good news— the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

Hosanna! Amen.

This is the good news— once we were no people; now we are God's own people.

Hosanna! Amen.

Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with other, and the world.

Hosanna! Amen.

*Hymn #248

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

Call to Confession

Prayers of Confession

**Lord of the Empty Tomb,
bring new life where we are worn and tired;
new love where we have turned hard-hearted;
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where
we are prisoners of ourselves and our past.**

[silence]

To all and to each,
on his community and on his friends,
where regret is real,
Jesus pronounces his pardon
and grants us the right to begin again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Scripture – Psalm 148, selections

Remembering our Baptisms

*Hymn #485

We Know That Christ Is Raised

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!

A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

*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.

Prayers 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.

Scripture – John 20:19-23

*Hymn #458 (remain seated) *Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet*

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Sermon – “Jesus came and stood among them”

*Hymn #716 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

*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; Tom Parsons (stomach cancer – friend of Jan Stocks) - *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.

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.

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.

Summer office hours

From the week of June 8th through July 12th, the church office will only be open Mondays and Fridays from 9am-1pm. An insert with details will be provided June 1st and June 8th in your bulletin or you may refer to your weekly email updates.

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: Monday-Friday 9:00-1:00; Jennifer Cell: 478-318-7911

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Death will be destroyed.

In the death of Jesus Christ
God's way in the world seemed finally defeated.
But death was no match for God.
The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death.
Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living,
that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing.
We do not yet see the end of death.
But Christ has been raised from the dead,
transformed and yet the same person.
In his resurrection is the promise of ours.
We are convinced the life God wills for each of us
is stronger than the death that destroys us.
The glory of that life exceeds our imagination
but we know we shall be with Christ.
So we treat death as a broken power.
Its ultimate defeat is certain.
In the face of death we grieve.
Yet in hope we celebrate life.
No life ends so tragically
that its meaning and value are destroyed.
Nothing, not even death, can separate us
from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Presbyterian Declaration of Faith

O dearest bloom the seasons know,
Flowers of the Resurrection blow,
Our hope and faith restore;
And through the bitterness of death
And loss and sorrow, breathe a breath
Of life forevermore!

The thought of Love Immortal blends
With fond remembrances of friends;
In you, O sacred flowers,
By human love made doubly sweet,
The heavenly and the earthly meet,
The heart of Christ and ours!

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–92)

compiled by RWH for Northminster Macon — week of 2025-05-18

Monday Morning

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”



John 20:19-23

Then on that same first day of the week, when it was evening, though the disciples were behind closed doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace to you!

So saying, He showed them His hands and His side. And when the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy (delight, exultation, ecstasy, rapture).

Then Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! [Just] as the Father has sent Me forth, so I am sending you.

And having said this, He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit!

[Now having received the Holy Spirit, and being led and directed by Him] if you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained.

John 20:19-23, *The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*

Anyone can be sentimental about the nativity;
any fool can feel like a Christian at Christmas.

But Easter is the main event; if you don't believe in the resurrection, you're not a believer.

John Irving, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*

Question 46. *What do you affirm when you say that "on the third day he rose again from the dead"? That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.*

Question 47. *What do you affirm when you say that "he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father"? First, that Christ has gone to be with the Father, hidden except to the eyes of faith. Second, however, that Christ is not cut off from us in the remote past, or in some place from which he cannot reach us, but is present to us here and now by grace. He reigns with divine authority, protecting us, guiding us, and interceding for us until he returns in glory.*

Presbyterian 1998 Study Catechism

God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies grey and threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, we beseech Thee; turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to Thy honor and glory.

Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471)

In the Risen Christ, God reveals the final state of all reality. God forbids us to accept "as-it-is" in favor of "what-God's-love-can-make-it." To believe in Resurrection means to cross limits and transcend boundaries. Because of the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus we realistically can believe that tomorrow can be better than today. We are not bound by any past. There is a future that is created by God, and much bigger than our own efforts. We should not just believe in some kind of survival or immortality or just "life after death"—but Resurrection, an utterly new creation, a transformation into Love that is promised as the final chapter of all history. That is why a true Christian has to be an optimist. In fact, if you are not, you haven't got it yet.

Richard Rohr, *Radical Grace: Daily Meditations*



The eyes are about to open.
Through fog, Sleep crosses the great water—
See how it sails in the little boat?
Slowly, such a long journey,
Bits of light
Catch colors in the mirrored hull.
Beneath the glassy surface, a glimpse
Of your dreams: the lake, the boat, with you
In it. Now a shadow
Falls over you: above the surface,
The figure of Sleep
Has leaned over its boat.
Hear Sleep's feet plop in the shallows—
It pulls the boat to shore.

"The End of Sleep" by Elizabeth Twiddy, from *Love-Noise*