

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

December 29, 2019



NORTH MACON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please be sure to turn off all cellular devices during the worship service.
Also, please do not bring food or drink into the sanctuary.

Behold, I am coming soon!
Revelation 22:7a

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

Isaiah 25:6-9

Pastor: On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food
for all peoples,

People: **A banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines.**

Pastor: On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the
sheet that covers all nations:

People: **He will swallow up death forever!**

Pastor: The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will
remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth.

People: **The LORD has spoken!**

Pastor: In that day they will say:

People: **Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the
LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!**

*Praise Hymn

196 - *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*
vs. 1, 3 & 4

* those who are able please stand

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe?

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God;
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven;
He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered and was buried;

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.

His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified;

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,

and to life in the world to come. Amen.

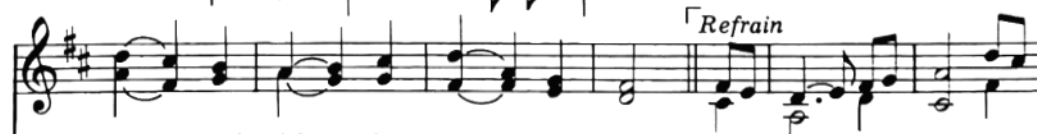
The Nicene Creed is a statement of the orthodox faith of the early Christian church in opposition to certain heresies, especially Arianism, which taught that neither Jesus nor the Holy Spirit were divine. In its present form this creed goes back partially to the Council of Nicea (A.D. 325) with additions by the Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381). It was accepted in its present form at the Council of Chalcedon in 451.



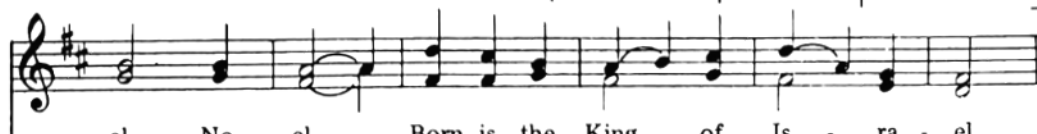
1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the east, be -
 3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er Beth - le - hem it
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - 'rent - ly up -
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es to our



fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a
 yond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And
 coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in - tent, And to
 took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right
 on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres - ence Their
 heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And



cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 with His blood man - kind hath bought.



el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 4:29-34; 10:1-13;
Matthew 2:10-11; Psalm 72:5-11

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite-- wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan-- with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones -- she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed. She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your men must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness." And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. (Hiram's ships brought gold from Ophir; and from there they brought great cargoes of almugwood and precious stones. The king used the almugwood to make supports for the temple of the LORD and for the royal palace, and to make harps and lyres for the musicians. So much almugwood has never been imported or seen since that day.) King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.

When [the Magi] saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts. All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

*Hymn of Response

We Three Kings



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are: Bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far—
2. Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
3. Frank-in-cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine: its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom—
5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise: King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



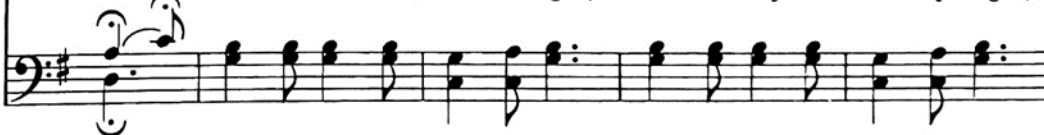
Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain— Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
Prayer and prais - ing, all men rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high.
Sor - r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Earth to heav'n re - plies.



Refrain



O star of won - der, star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



West - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Prayer for Covenant Children

Rev. Josh Garrett

Sermon

Perfect Vision in 2020
1 Thessalonians 2:8

Rev. Josh Garrett

*Hymn of Response

224 - *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

*Doxology

#731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Postlude

Visitors: Welcome! Please feel free to speak with one of the pastors or elders after the service. They would be glad to answer any questions you may have and would enjoy meeting you. *If you desire to receive email communications from the church, please email Monni Parrish at monni@nmipc.net and she will add you to the distribution list.*

• The Preached Word •

Title: *Perfect Vision in 2020*

Pastor: Rev. Josh Garrett

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

pg. 958 in the pew Bible

North Macon Presbyterian Church

NMPC exists to glorify and enjoy God, love and equip His people for the work of His ministry, and make disciples of all nations.

More specifically, NMPC seeks to glorify God and make disciples by...

Providing a Home

- Warm & welcoming
- Connected & caring for one another
- Vulnerable & gracious

Proclaiming the Gospel

- Christ-centered worship & expository preaching
- Classes to educate, encourage & equip
- Small Groups to disciple & deepen relationships

Partnering with Ministries

- North Macon Preschool
- *RUF, STF, CCS, EE, CC and OOD*
- 17 Missionaries & 2 Mission Trips
- Central GA Presbytery & General Assembly

*Local Ministries

RUF – Reformed University Fellowship (Mercer & Wesleyan)

STF – Strong Tower Fellowship

CCS – Covenant Care Services

EE – Evangelism Explosion

CC – Campus Clubs

OOD – Out of Darkness

A Further Explanation

Providing a Home

We believe “Providing a Home” meets one of the unique needs for those living in North Macon. We tend to be isolated and lonely. We tend to live fragmented and disconnected lives, and advances in technology seem to be making matters worse. We tend to pride ourselves on “having it all together” and giving the appearance that we do not need anyone or anything.

We desperately need a place where we can take off our masks, admit our sin and failures, and be received and accepted. We long for a genuine community where we can be loved as we really are, and, in turn, love others as they really are. NMPC is committed to be that place—a home—where folks are welcomed, embraced, and loved.

Proclaiming the Gospel

NMPC’s primary task is to “Proclaim the Gospel”, for the Gospel is the power of God for salvation. To spell it out more particularly, we are committed to preach the good news of Jesus Christ, in the whole counsel of Scripture, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with Reformed theological convictions, in a caring and gracious community, so that we might present everyone perfect in Christ. Therefore, in every worship service, every Sunday school class, every small group, and every ministry of the church, we are committed to proclaim the Gospel as of chief importance for the transformation of lives.

Partnering with Ministries

NMPC is committed to carrying the good news of the Gospel—in word and deed—into our community and around the world. We seek to do so through strategic partnerships with ministries in our community and with missionaries around the globe. We are committed to **pray** for, **partner** with, and **participate** in these ministries so that we might make disciples of Jesus Christ of all nations.

Pray for our Members:

Tommy & Lolly James
Pat Jenkins
Glen & Helen Johnson
Paul Johnson

Pray for our Ministries:

Our sister churches & Partnering ministries; Strong Tower Fellowship, First Presbyterian Church, Grace Presbyterian Church, Central Georgia Presbytery, Covenant Care Services, Evangelism Explosion, Campus Clubs, and Out of Darkness. Pray for the spread of the Gospel and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

Our staff, elders and deacons would be full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

Our Missionary of the Month:

Jonas and Christina Davison are part of a church planting team in Japan where they use the arts to build bridges for evangelism & discipleship. Their main local church, Grace City, has been facing a significant financial need through the fall. Please pray for generous giving from both inside and outside Japan.

Pray also that God would raise up 1% of our congregation to be missionaries. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matt. 9:37).

Pray for Those in Need:

Expecting: Heather Austin, Morgan Adams, Meredith Covert & Jessie Schnetzer

Newborns: Lily Hearn, Winston Garrett, Ava Adams & Hudson Hannah

Caring for Loved Ones: Becky Gorman (Randy); Steve Smith (dad); Amelia Smith (mom); Howard Gordon (mom); Melanie Grier (mom); Amy Self (mom).

Recovering: Brenda Crutchfield (COPD); Kathy Combs (surgery); Sally Lee (hip); Anderson Hornick (surgery); Kathy Stanley (Parkinson's); Howard Gordon (shingles)

Bereaved: : Linda Scott (Richard); Diane McCallum (Jimmy); Amy Self (dad); Cal Garretson (dad); Becky Harman (sister); Lonnie Dye (sister); Pearson Kelly (mom); David Roddenberry (mom); Ed Grimsley (brother); Andrew Wood (grandparents); Cheryl Willis (Jerry); Kathy Moore (Don); Kathy Cunningham (mom); Julie Strange (mom).

Providing a Home ♦ Proclaiming the Gospel ♦ Partnering with Ministries

• Service Schedule •

Nursery Workers

Dec. 29 - Steve & Julie Strange
Jan. 05 - Dan & Connie Strawn

Children's Church

Dec. 29 - Dan & Holly Taylor
Jan. 05 - Jason & Allison Tripp

Greeters

December - Patrick & Ashley Hoye

Soundboard Operator

December - Richard Fyke

Communion Preparation

January - Kate Harrison, Carol Dawson
& Charlotte Laurens

Usher Team

December - Tate Morris
Ed Grimsley
Rhett Farmer
Ed Voss

Communion Elders

January - Larry Breed
Howard Reed
Kevin Watson
Jeff Thompson
Jeff Kross
Ed Grimsley
Rob Morton
Charles Baker

Prayer Team

Dec. 29 - Dan Strawn & Rob Morton
Jan. 05 - Buck Ream, Howard Reed

• Financial Update •

as of November 30, 2019

General Operations

2019 Receipts: \$ 967,063
2019 Expenses: \$ 932,753

Faith Promise for Missions

Paid out June 30: \$22,175
in support our 17 missionaries
for the first half of 2019
Needed July - Dec: \$ 23,450
Collected July - Nov: \$ 27,553

• Discipleship Opportunities •

Sunday School - Winter Quarter (Jan 5 - Mar 29)

Adult Electives

Relationships: A Mess Worth Making by Timothy Lane & Paul David Tripp—led
by Jason Churchwell

1 Peter—led by Ed Grimsley, Neal Ham & Dan Strawn

Understanding and Appreciating the Sacraments—led by Josh Garrett

Men's Class — *The Holiness of God* by RC Sproul (old conference room)

Ladies' Class — *Study of Galatians* (new conference room)

Wednesday Night Activities

Our Wednesday Night Activities will resume on January 8, 2020.

Small Groups

All of our Small Groups have begun meeting. If you are interested in learning more or in joining a Small Group, please talk with Pastor Josh (josh@nmpc.net). We have all kinds: Mentor Mom, Women's Bible Studies, Men's Discipleship, and Community Groups.

• Activities this Week •

Sunday - 10:45 AM - Worship

Tuesday - Thursday - Office Closed

• Announcements •

Monday Morning Prayer - Due to the holidays, we will NOT meet for prayer tomorrow. We will resume our meetings on Monday, January 6th. However, if you have a prayer request, please let Hunter or Josh know.

Winter Sunday School Classes - The Winter quarter of Sunday school classes begins next Sunday, January 5th. Take a look at pg. 11 and begin thinking about which class you may participate in.

Parent Equip - Parent Equip is a seminar geared towards any adult with an interest in relating to youth and youth culture. Our topic, “Suburban Teens & Anxiety,” will be presented by Cameron Cole, who is the Director of Children, Youth, and Family at Cathedral Church of the Advent, in Birmingham, Alabama. This seminar will take place in our Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 10th, from 6:30-8:45pm. The cost is \$10/person; dinner provided. Please register online through REALM.



Christmas Eve Offering - We collected \$4050 for the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund, which is used to provide financial assistance to the widows and orphans of PCA ministers and missionaries. Thank you for giving generously to help those in need!

Pianist - We are delighted to have Maggie Miller, the granddaughter of Larry & LuAnn Breed, playing the piano today in worship.



NORTH MACON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mission

To glorify and enjoy God, love and equip His people for the work of His ministry, and make disciples of all nations.

Session

Class of 2019
Paul McCommon*
Rob Morton*
Howard Reed*

Class of 2020
Ed Grimsley
Kevin Watson*

Class of 2021
Cleve Cunningham
Neal Ham
Dan Strawn*
Jeff Thompson*

Diaconate

Class of 2019
Bert Barnes*
Jack Pyles*

Class of 2020
Matt Monsted*
Silas Peed
Wes Seay

Class of 2021
Dwayne Benson
Matt Cathey*
Patrick Hoyo
Brandon Youmans

*indicates the officer is at the end of a 2nd term and will roll off

Staff

Every Member, *Ministers*
Hunter Stevenson, *Senior Pastor*
Josh Garrett, *Associate Pastor*
Mark Ballard, *Youth Director*
Duncan Cantrell, *Children's Director
& Operations Manager*

Payton Churchwell, *Women's Ministry
Coordinator*
Kathy Pye, *Administrative Assistant*
Monni Parrish, *Administrator,
Financial Director & Pianist*
Debbie McCommon, *North Macon
Preschool Director*

5707 Rivoli Drive, Macon, GA 31210 | Phone: 478.477.7777 | Website: www.nmpc.net

North Macon belongs to the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination seeking to be Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission.