

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

October 18, 2020



NORTH MACON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Important Reminders:

Turn off all cellular devices during the worship service.

Do not bring food or drink into the sanctuary.

Maintain at least 6 feet between yourself and others.

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:7

Preclude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Josh Garrett

Introit

Call to Worship

Psalm 46

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.

People: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.**

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

People: **God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.**

Pastor: The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

People: **Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.**

Pastor: The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

*Praise Hymn

#92 - *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

*Invocation

Rev. Josh Garrett

*Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

PASTOR: Christian, what do you believe?

ALL: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*The Apostles' Creed was not written by the apostles but is a summary of their teachings.
It dates back to the 4th century and has been used by the church to identify believers,
instruct new converts, and provide a confession of faith for worship.*

* those who are able please stand

Father, Long Before Creation

Andrew Osenga



1. Fa - ther long be - fore cre - a - tion Thou hadst cho-sen us in love,
2. *Though the world may change its fash - ion yet our God is e'er the same;*
3. God's com - pas - sion is my sto - ry, is my boast - ing all the day;
4. *Lov - ing Fa - ther now be - fore Thee we will ev - er praise Thy love,*



And that love so deep, so mov - ing, draws us close to Christ a - bove.
His com - pas - sion and His cov - 'nant through all a - ges will re - main.
 Mer - cy free and nev - er fail - ing moves my will, di - rects my way.
And our songs will sound un - ceas - ing 'til we reach our home a - bove.



Still it keeps us, still it keeps us firm - ly fixed in Christ a - lone.
God's own chil - dren, God's own chil - dren must for - ev - er praise His name.
 God so loved us, God so loved us that His on - ly Son He gave.
Giv - ing glo - ry, giv - ing glo - ry to our God and to the Lamb.



Chorus: And the world will sing His love, Yes the world will sing His love, —



And we'll all join hands, ev - ry wom - an ev - ry man to sing His love,



to sing His love.

Call to Confession

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Corporate Confession

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the evil desires of our own hearts. We have willingly broken your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us all of our sins. Turn our wandering hearts back to you, and lead us by your Holy Spirit in the way of righteousness, holiness, and truth.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Rev. Josh Garrett

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

Memory Verse 29

Pastor: Let the married ones recite Song of Songs 5:1.

Married: *Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers; Song of Songs 5:1.*

Pastor: Let the unmarried ones recite Song of Songs 8:4.

Unmarried: **Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires; Song of Songs 8:4.**

Memory Verse 30

*They will be my people, and I will be their God.
Jeremiah 32:38*

It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

***Hymn of Preparation**

#521 - My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Prayer for Covenant Children

Rev. Duncan Cantrell

Sermon

Look Up and Count the Stars
Genesis 15

Rev. Duncan Cantrell

*Hymn of Response

We Will Feast in the House of Zion
printed on page 8

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up the light of his countenance and give you peace, both now and forevermore. Amen.

*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@nmpc.net and she will add you to the distribution list.*

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Sandra McCracken

We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our
hearts re - stored. He has done great things, we will say to - geth - er; We will feast
and weep no more. We will not be burned by the fire, He
In the dark of night be - fore the dawn my
Ev - 'ry vow we've bro - ken and be - trayed; You
is the Lord our God. We are not con - sumed by the
soul be not a - fraid; for the prom - ised morn - ing, oh how
are the faith - ful One. And from the gar - den to the
flood; Up - held, pro - tect - ed, gath - ered up.
long? O God of Ja - cob be my strength.
grave bind us to - geth - er bring sha - lom.

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• The Preached Word •

Title: *Look Up and Count the Stars*

Pastor: Rev. Duncan Cantrell

Text: Genesis 15

pg. 11 in the pew Bible

Pray for Our Members:

John, Judy & Betsy LaPish
Charlotte Laurens
David, Lisa, David, Jonathan & Hannah Lee
Moses & Mary Lee

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month:

Rodney and Jana Davila minister in Costa Rica, planting churches and teaching and training pastors.

Pray for Those in Need:

Expecting: Megan Cathey, Mallory Sammons Moran, Megan Anderson & Chelsea Dozier.

Newborns: Hayley Lynn Taylor, Summer Robinson, Charlie Cantrell, Olivia Nicholson, Frankie Schnetzer, Madison Covert, & Kennedy Adams,

Newlywed & Engaged Couples: Jon & Bonnie (Barnes) Andree (3/21); Eric & Jennifer (McCullough) Hornick (4/25); Ben & Audrey (Drummond) Yost (5/29); Carter & Margaret (Duren) Shelton (7/25); Eric Hall & Jessica Cummings (10/24); Skylar Gossett & Lizzie Reed (8/7/21)

Members Caring for Loved Ones: Becky Gorman (Randy); Steve Smith (dad); Amelia Smith (mom); Howard Gordon (mom); Melanie Grier (mom); Amy Self (mom); Tricia Barton (mom); Monni Parrish (mom)

Recovering: Sally Lee (hip); Kathy Stanley (Parkinson's); John LaPish (chemo)

Bereaved: Cheryl Willis (Jerry); Kathy Moore (Don); Kathy Pye (Dad); Jason Hawkins (Dad); Larry & LuAnn Breed (Collin); Kara Ballard (grandfather); Joe Timberlake (Peggy); Chase Singleton (dad); Jason Churchwell (dad); Margaret Rogers (dad); Gregory Washington (grandfather); Liz Ream & the McKelveys (Buck); Trey Dozier (grandmother); Curt Montgomery (grandmother); Tricia Barton (dad); Charlie Parrish (mom)

Our Leaders: the Session, Diaconate, Women's Ministry Committee, and Staff; our local, state and federal governmental officials.

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*
- 19 Missionaries (see page 11) & 2 short-term Mission Trips
- Central GA Presbytery & General Assembly

*Local Ministries

RUF – Reformed University Fellowship (Mercer, Wesleyan & Valdosta State)

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 also 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 *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.

• Discipleship Opportunities •

Sunday School Classes

Adults: 1 Samuel—taught by Josh Garrett in the Fellowship Hall

Youth: *Six Conversations* (from the Gospel of John)—taught by Mark Ballard & Anna Smith in the Outdoor Classroom

3rd-6th Grade: *Listening to Jesus*—taught by Duncan Cantrell in Room 122

K4-2nd Grade: *Living Together: the Faithfulness of God in the Families of the Patriarchs*—taught by Jill Bloodworth, Sara Pyles, and Caleb & Hannah Henning in Room 121.

Women's Bible Study

Heather Stevenson is teaching *Ezra: the Restoration and Rebuilding of God's People* on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Night Activities

Dinner begins at 5:45 PM (\$5.00/adult/teen, \$2.00/child, family max \$15.00).

At 6:30 PM classes are offered for all ages:

Nursery (0-3 year old)

Children's Class (K4 - 6th grade)

Youth Group (7th - 12th grade)

Adult Bible Study: Reformed Worldview

The menu for Wed, Oct. 21st is Meat Loaf with sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Salad, Rolls and Cookies

Small Groups

If you are interested in joining a Small Group, please contact Josh or Payton.

• Financial Update •

as of September 30, 2020

General Operations

2020 Receipts: \$842,245
2020 Expenses: \$764,229

Faith Promise for Missions

Paid out June 30: \$ 32,508
to support our 19 missionaries
for the first half of 2020
Needed by Dec. 30: \$ 24,725
Cash available: \$ 15,501

• Announcements •

Monday Morning Prayer - We will gather for Monday Morning Prayer from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. If you have a prayer request, please let one of the pastors know.

Men's Fellowship - Our next Men's Fellowship will be the 4th Annual Cornhole Tournament this coming Friday, October 23rd at 6 PM at the home of Brandon Youmans (520 Walden Rd in Forsyth). All men college age and up are invited to attend!

Pumpkin Carving Contest - Children and youth are invited to a socially distanced pumpkin carving contest in the parking lot behind the Fellowship Hall on Sun, Oct 25th from 5-7 PM. Food, pumpkins, and carving supplies will be provided! Sign up on Realm or email monni@nmpe.net. Come compete for the Golden Pumpkin!

Out-of-Darkness Banquet - We will be hosting a dinner and fundraiser event for Out-of-Darkness on Nov. 10th here in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in learning more about the ministry and financially supporting them please RSVP with Duncan (duncan@nmpe.net) by Friday, Oct. 30th.



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.

	Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Session	Ed Grimsley Kevin Watson*	Cleve Cunningham Neal Ham Dan Strawn* Jeff Thompson*	Jason Churchwell Tommy James

	Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Diaconate	Matt Monsted* Silas Peed Wes Seay	Dwayne Benson Matt Cathey* Patrick Hoyer Brandon Youmans	Lee Burch Hays Fyke Grant Nicholson Shane Self

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

Staff	Every Member, <i>Ministers</i> Hunter Stevenson, <i>Senior Pastor</i> Josh Garrett, <i>Associate Pastor</i> Duncan Cantrell, <i>Assistant Pastor</i> Payton Churchwell, <i>Women's Ministry Coordinator</i> Mark Ballard, <i>Youth Director</i>	Anna Smith, <i>Youth Assistant</i> Kathy Pye, <i>Church Secretary</i> Monni Parrish, <i>Administrator, Financial Director & Pianist</i> Melanie Buckner, <i>Music Director</i> Debbie McCommon, <i>North Macon Preschool Director</i>
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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.