

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

May 23, 2021



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.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

Romans 11:33-36

Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

People: **How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!**

Pastor: Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?

People: **Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?**

Pastor: For from him and through him and for him are all things.

People: **To him be the glory forever! Amen.**

*Praise Hymn

*#4 - All Praise to God Who Reigns Above
vs. 1-5*

** those who are able please stand*

*Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism, 67 & 68

Pastor: What is effectual calling?

People: Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace,
whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect,
and from nothing in them moving him thercunto)
He does, in his accepted time,
invite and draw them to Jesus Christ,
by his Word and Spirit;
savingly enlightening their minds,
renewing and powerfully determining their wills,
so as they (although in themselves dead in sin)
are thus made willing and able freely to answer his call,
and to accept and embrace the grace offered
and conveyed therein.

Pastor: Are the elect only effectually called?

People: All the elect, and they only, are effectually called;
although others may be, and often are,
outwardly called by the ministry of the Word,
and have some common operations of the Spirit;
who, for their willful neglect and contempt
of the grace offered to them,
being justly left in their unbelief,
do never truly come to Jesus Christ.

The Westminster Larger Catechism expresses the truths of the Bible in summary form. It was comprised at the Westminster Assembly in London (1643-1648), and it sets forth the doctrinal standards of our church and our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America.

Spirit of God



Spi - rit of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;
 Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King?
Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love.

Wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear.
 All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

Stoop to my weak - ness, might-y as Thou art;
To check the ri - sing doubt, the re - bel sigh,
 I see Thy cross; there teach me to cling;
The pre - sence of Thy de - scend - ed Dove.

And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
Teach me the pa - tience of strug - gling in prayer.
 O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!
My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.

©Karl Digerness

Call to Prayer

Matthew 11:27-30

All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

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

Please fill out the information sheet beside your bulletin. Also, we encourage those watching online to 'make a comment' so that we can record your presence with us.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.

The disciples came to him and asked, Why do you speak to the people in parables? He replied, The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand." In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did.

...continued on next page

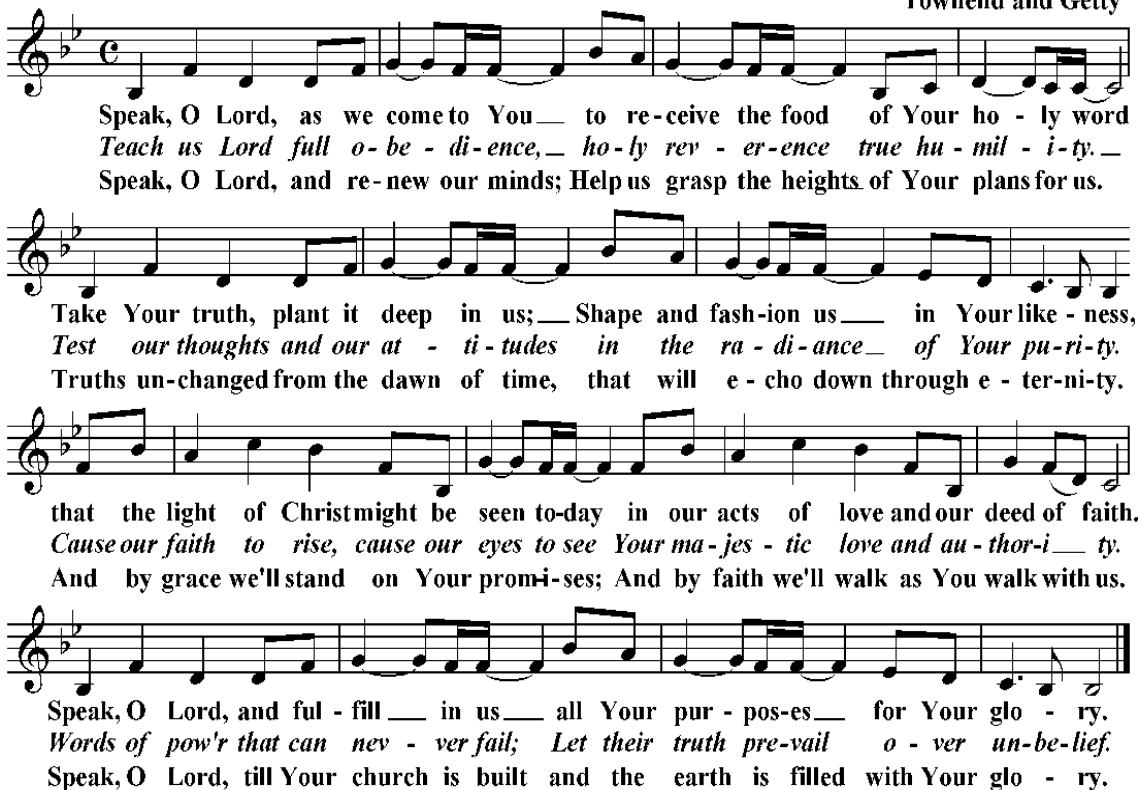
Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

*Hymn of Preparation

Speak O Lord

Speak, O Lord

Townend and Getty



Speak, O Lord, as we come to You — to re-ceive the food of Your ho - ly word
Teach us Lord full o - be - di - ence, — ho - ly rev - er - ence true hu - mil - i - ty. —
 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.

Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; — Shape and fash - ion us — in Your like - ness,
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance — of Your pu - ri - ty.
 Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty.

that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of love and our deed of faith.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
 And by grace we'll stand on Your prom - i - ses; And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill — in us — all Your pur - pos - es — for Your glo - ry.
Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail; Let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

Prayer for Covenant Children

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Sermon

Make Your Calling and Election Sure
2 Peter 1:1-11

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

*Hymn of Response

#644 - *May the Mind of Christ My Savior*

*Benediction

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. 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.*

•The Preached Word•

Title: *Make Your Calling and Election Sure*

Text: 2 Peter 1:1-11

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

pg. 983 in your pew Bible

WSC Q. 31. *What is effectual calling?*

Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby,
convincing us of our sin and misery,
enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ,
and renewing our wills,
He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ,
freely offered in the gospel.

Romans 8:30

And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, *through the living and enduring word of God.*

Romans 10:17

Consequently, *faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. *He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because *our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.*

1 Corinthians 2:14

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 8:6-8

The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Titus 3:3-8a

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.

John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Matthew 11:27

All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and *no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

John 17:6-9

I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine.

John 3:5-8

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*

Matthew 22:14

For many are invited, but few are chosen.

Acts 13:48

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and *all who were appointed for eternal life believed.*

Acts 16:13-14

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. *The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through *faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Romans 8:30

And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

John 6:37-39

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.*

John 10:27-29

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

John 17:1-2

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. *For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.*

Philippians 1:4-6

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that *he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Romans 11:29

For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

2 Peter 3:17-18

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

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*
- 20 Missionaries & 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

Pray for Our Members:

Bobby & Barbara Freeman
Rick Funk
Hays, Andrea, Imrie & Buck Fyke
Richard Fyke

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month:

Mike & Eli Sabin help spread the gospel throughout Southeast Asia by means of Trans World Radio on Guam. Christian programming is broadcast to places that otherwise would have no Christian witness.

Pray for Those in Need:

Expecting: Melissa Newell (6/14), Bonnie Barnes Andree (6/22), Katie Singleton (6/25), Molly Prestwood (7/19) & Allie Monsted (7/28)

Newborns: Betsy Lambert, Smith Dozier, Mary Louise Cathey, Ford Anderson, Genevieve Moran, Hayley Taylor, Summer Robinson, Charlie Cantrell, Olivia Nicholson

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

Recovering/Sick: Sally Lee (hip); Kathy Stanley (Parkinson's); John LaPish (knee)

Bereaved: Joe Timberlake (Peggy); Liz Ream & the McKelveys (Buck); Tricia Barton (dad); Charles Baker (sister); Charlie Parrish (mom); Amy Self (mom); Chris Wilson (dad); Kathy Kersey (brother); Cathy Crumbley (mom); Cindy Voss (Ed); Justin & Haynes Studstill (Tyler); Jim Grier (Melanie); John Timms (brother); Cathe Dondes (David); Jill Bloodworth (mom); Margaret Shelton (grandfather); Monni Parrish (mom); Cheryl Willis (sister).

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

• Discipleship Opportunities •

Sunday School Classes

Adults: *Habakkuk*—taught by Josh Garrett in the Fellowship Hall

Youth: *Biblical vs. Cultural Liturgies*—taught by Mark Ballard & Anna Smith

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, Caleb & Hannah Henning & Kelly Smith in Room 121.

Summer Fellowships

We will begin our Summer Fellowships this Wednesday, May 26th.

6:00 Dinner - Pizza & Salad

6:45 Singing

6:55 Interview of Summer Interns

7:25 Dessert & Fellowship

Small Groups

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

• Financial Update •

as of May 2, 2021

General Operations

2021 Receipts: \$ 558,005
2021 Expenses: \$ 366,250

Faith Promise for Missions

2021 Receipts: \$ 40,775
Needed by June 30: \$ 24,725
to support our 20 missionaries

Building Loan Balance

April 30, 2021: \$ 542,499

• 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.

VBS Registration-VBS will be June 14-17 from 9 AM - Noon. T-shirts will be ordered this week! Please sign up today on Realm or by emailing Monni (monni@nmnpc.net).

2021 High School Graduates - Would you help us put together a “book of encouragement” for each high school graduate by scanning the QR code or leaving a handwritten note in the front office? Thank you!



Summer Interns - Come meet our Youth Summer Interns, John Fussell and Carly Godwin, this Wednesday Night! See details on page 13.

Pastors Away Today - Pastor Josh is serving on the Central GA Presbytery Commission to install Rev. Jeff Birch as the new pastor at Lake Oconee PCA. Pastor Duncan is preaching at Strong Tower Fellowship so that Pastor Brett Barbce can take a vacation.

Summer Book - Each summer our congregation reads a book together and gathers in Sunday School classes to discuss it. This year we will read Dane Ortlund's *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*. Pick up a copy for \$5 today!



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 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Session	Cleve Cunningham Neal Ham Dan Strawn* Jeff Thompson*	Jason Churchwell Tommy James	Ed Grimsley* Paul McCommon Rob Morton Howard Reed

	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Diaconate	Dwayne Benson Matt Cathey* Patrick Hoye Brandon Youmans	Lee Burch Hays Fyke Grant Nicholson Shane Self	Silas Peed* Wes Seay*

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

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