



THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

May 21, 2023



NORTH MACON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Important Reminders:

Turn off all cellular devices during the worship service.
Do not bring food or drink into the sanctuary.

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
1 John 4:7*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

1 John 4:9-10; 2 Cor. 9:15; Psalm 107:31

Pastor: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only
Son into the world that we might live through him.

People: **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

Pastor: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

People: **Thanks be to God for his unfailing love!**

*Praise Hymn

*Father, Long Before Creation
printed on page 2*

** 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. —

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*Confession of Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 26.1-2

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe concerning the communion of saints?

People: All saints—

who are united to Jesus Christ their head
by his Spirit and by faith—
have fellowship with Him
in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory.

And, being united to one another in love,
they participate in each other's gifts and graces
and are obligated to perform those public and private duties
which lead to their mutual good,
both inwardly and outwardly.

It is the duty of professing saints
to maintain a holy fellowship and communion
in the worship of God
and in performing such other spiritual services
as help them to edify one another.

It is their duty also
to come to the aid of one another in material things
according to their various abilities and necessities.

As God affords opportunity,
this communion is to be extended to all those in every
place who call on the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Westminster Confession of Faith expresses the teachings 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.

Receiving New Members

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

*Morris Butler Jr.; John, Jessica, Hannah, Grant & Kate Harman;
James Noland; Katie Pyles; Stewart, Shannon, Stewart, Jr., & Sloan Vernon*

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope except in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Jesus Christ?
4. Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to further its purity and peace?

Right Hand of Fellowship

Call to Prayer

John 13:34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Dr. David Todd

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

Holy Spirit

Ho - ly Spi - rit, liv - ing Breath of God, breathe new
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, come a - bide with - in, may Your
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, from cre - a - tion's birth, giv - ing

3
 life in - to my will - ing soul. Let the pres - ence of the
 joy be seen in all I do. Love e - nough to cov - er
 life to all that God has made, show Your pow - er once a -

6
 ris - en Lord come re - new my heart and make me whole.
 ev - 'ry sin, in each thought and deed and at - ti - tude.
 gain on earth, cause Your church to hun - ger for Your ways.

9
 Cause Your word to come a - live in me; Give me faith for what I
 Kind - ness to the great - est and the least, gen - tle - ness that sows the
 Let the fra - grance of our pray'rs a - rise; Lead us on the road of

12
 can - not see, give me pas - sion for Your pu - ri - ty; Ho - ly
 path of peace. Turn my striv - ings in - to works of grace; Breath of
 sac - ri - fice, that in u - ni - ty the face of Christ may be

15
 Spi - rit breathe new life in me.
 God show Christ in all I do.
 clear for all the world to see.

©CCLI

Prayer for Covenant Children

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

*Children's Church is for children 4 years old through 1st grade.
If today is your child's first time attending, please accompany them to Children's Church.
Also, we have a "Cry Room" for our young families, where you can see & hear the service.*

Sermon

The Most Excellent Way
Philippians 1:9-11

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

The Sacrament of Communion

All those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ alone for their salvation, are baptized, and are members in good standing of a Bible-believing, evangelical church are invited to come forward and partake of the Lord's Supper this morning. All others, please remain seated and consider your relationship with Christ and His Church during the sacrament.

*Hymn of Response

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

*Benediction

Revelation 1:5b-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! 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

• The Preached Word •

Title: *The Most Excellent Way*

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Text: Philippians 1:9-11

pg. 951 in your pew Bible

Pray for Our Members:

Jack, Sara, Maggie & Katie Pyles
Liz Ream
Sylvia Ream
Howard & Debi Reed

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month:

Dr. Victor and Nosizo Nakah are serving in Africa where Dr. Nakah is the international director of missions for the whole continent of Africa.

Pray for Those in Need:

Expecting: Laura Adams (8/29), Hannah Henning (10/14); MacKenzie Lyles (11/8); Lizzie Gossett (12/7)

Newborns: Ryder Newell, Eleanor Freel, Ben McKenzie, & Benjamin Hornick

Members Caring for Loved Ones: Becky Gorman (Randy); Howard Gordon (mom); Joseph Egloff (mom); Rana Munna (mom); Ron Henning (parents)

Recovering/Sick: Patricia Hughes (jaw); Charles Hughes (heart); John LaPish (leg); Aliya Ballard (surgery); Dwayne Benson (surgery); Dick Manwaring (fall)

Bereaved: Susana, Sarah Jane & Oscar Sandefur (Chris); Beth McSween (John); John & Joyce Meadows (son); Boo McKelvey (mom & dad); Tricia Barton (mom); Cathy Smith (JC); Madeline Thompson (mom); Mary Clare Freel (dad); Kate Harrison (sister); Carol Dawson (sister); John Dukes (dad); Lynn & Aaron Hogg, Melissa Newell (Jerry); Brad Bibb (mom)

Our Leaders: the Session, Diaconate, and Staff; our local, state and federal governmental officials

Sacred Road Mission Team (Jake Adams, Lydia Johnson, Daniel Jones, Harvey Roddenberry, Lucy & Simon Shepley, Hunt & Hunter Stevenson) will be serving the Yakama Tribe of Native Americans in Washington State the week of June 3-10

• Discipleship Opportunities •

Spring Sunday School Schedule

2-3 Year Old:	<i>God's Love</i> taught by Seth & Amy Peed in Room 112
4k- 5k:	<i>Jesus is God</i> taught by Anna Barnes in Room 114
1st-2nd:	<i>Serving God</i> taught by Steven & Jill Bloodworth, Hays & Andrea Fyke and Patrick & Andrea Goff in Room 121
3rd-5th:	<i>God's Growing Church</i> taught by Myra Baker & Tricia Barton in Room 122
6th-12th:	<i>Don't Follow Your Heart</i> taught by Mark Ballard in the Youth Room
20s & 30s:	<i>James</i> taught by Charles Hall & Matt McCommon in the Fellowship Hall
30s & 40s:	<i>In the Lord, I Take Refuge</i> taught by Cal Garretson and Steven Bloodworth in MC #2
50s & 60s:	<i>The Good News I Almost Forgot</i> taught by Ed Grimsley, Neal Ham, Howard Reed and Dan Strawn in MC #1
60s & up:	<i>Philippians</i> taught by Tommy James & Rob Morton in the Conference

• Financial Update •

April 30, 2023

General Operations

2023 Receipts:	\$ 417,573
2023 Expenses:	\$ 448,105

Building Loan Balance

April 3: \$ 0

Faith Promise for Missions

2023 Receipts:	\$ 31,253
Needed by June 30:	\$ 28,950
to support our 18 missionaries for the first half of the year	

• Announcements •

Communion today - We will celebrate communion today (and not on June 4) so that our Communicants can participate after joining the church. As always, the center sections will come down the center aisle to receive the elements, returning to their seats via the interior aisles. The outside sections will come down the outside aisles and return via the interior aisles. Please hold the elements until everyone has been served so that we can partake together. Anyone with mobility issues can remain seated; simply raise your hand to be identified and an elder will come serve you.

2023 Pictorial Directory - Immediately after the worship service today, Skip & Debbie Yetter will be taking pictures under the portico for the 2023 Pictorial Directory.

Monday Morning Prayer - We will gather for Monday Prayer tomorrow at 9 AM. Please let Pastor Hunter (hunter@nmipc.net) know if you have a prayer request.

The Pilgrim's Progress - Each summer at NMPC, our congregation reads a book together and discusses it during Sunday School. This year we are reading John Bunyan's classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Pick up a copy in the narthex for \$5. A reading schedule is inside.

NMPC Kids Summer Book Club - Come with us on an adventure as we read the "Little's Pilgrim's Progress!" We will meet every Tuesday at 10:30 AM, starting June 6, to read, discuss and enjoy snacks together. Please contact Megan Cathey or register on REALM where you can find the reading schedule and additional information.

Women's Fellowship - Women wanting to fellowship and discuss the summer book, Pilgrim's Progress, will meet 3 Wednesday Mornings in June (7th, 14th, 21st) and 3 Wednesday Mornings in July (12th, 19th, 26th). The emphasis will be on fellowship so come even if you haven't read the book (we will have copies of the book available each meeting). Sign up on REALM for childcare.

VBS Volunteer Sign-Up - We are looking for volunteers for VBS (June 26-30). God uses every type of gift and talent for VBS so please go to REALM and select the area in which you may be interested in serving. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Cathey.

High School Graduates - We are super thankful for our ten high school seniors who will be graduating over the next couple of weeks. Over the next few Sundays, you'll notice a table in the narthex dedicated to our seniors. Please stop by to sign their photo books!



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 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
	Ed Grimsley* Paul McCommon Rob Morton Howard Reed	Neal Ham*	Cal Garretson Tommy James* Charlie Parrish

Diaconate	Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
	Lee Burch*		Joshua Buckner Rick Funk Hays Fyke*

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

Staff	Every Member, <i>Ministers</i>	Kathy Pye, <i>Church Secretary</i>
	Hunter Stevenson, <i>Senior Pastor</i>	Monni Parrish, <i>Administrator, Financial Director & Pianist</i>
	Mark Ballard, <i>Youth Director</i>	Melanie Buckner, <i>Music Director</i>
	Megan Cathey, <i>Interim Children's Ministry Director</i>	Riley Wilson, <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.