

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

September 24, 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.

*He satisfies my desires with good things
so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's.
Psalm 103:5*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-8

Pastor: Praise the LORD, O my soul! All my inmost being, praise his holy name!

People: Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!

Pastor: He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion.

People: He satisfies my desires with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Pastor: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

People: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

*Praise Hymn

#53 - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

** those who are able please stand*

*Invocation

Rev. Bob Brunson

* 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.*

*Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 50. What did Christ's humiliation after his death consist of?
Answer: Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried
and continuing in the state of the dead and under the power of death until the third day,
which has also been expressed in these words: "He descended into hell."*

Come Thou Fount

Robinson/Brown



Come thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;
 O that day, when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy love - ly face;



streams of mer - cy ne - ver ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee.
 cloth - ed then in blood washed lin - en, how I'll sing Thy sov - 'reign grace.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:
 Prone to wan - der — Lord, I feel it — prone to leave the God I love:
 Come, my Lord, no long - er tar - ry, take my ran - somed soul a - way;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
 send Thine an - gels now to car - ry me to realms of end - less day.

Call to Confession

Hosca 14:1-3

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall! Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips. Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount war-horses. We will never again say 'Our gods' to what our own hands have made, for in You alone the fatherless find compassion."

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 of all 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

Isaiah 43:25

*I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions,
for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.*

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Rev. Bob Brunson

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

*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
Teach us Lord full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -
 Speak, O Lord, and re - new__ our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your
 ho - ly word. Take Your truth, plant it deep__ in us;__ Shape and
mil - i - ty.__ Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us.__ Truths un - changed from the dawn__ of time, that will
 fash - ion us__ in Your like__ ness, that the light of Christ might be
ra - di - ance of Your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on Your
 seen to-day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
eyes to see Your ma - je - stic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
 pro - mi - ses, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till Your
 fill__ in us__ all Your pur - po - ses for Your glo - ry.
ne - ver fail; Let their truth__ pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 church__ is built, and the earth__ is filled with Your glo - ry.

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.*

Scrmon

The Woman on the Scarlet Beast
Revelation 17:1-6

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

*Hymn of Response

#642 - *Be Thou My Vision*

*Benediction

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and dominion, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, 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.*

• The Preached Word •

Title: *The Woman on the Scarlet Beast*

Text: Revelation 17:1-6

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

pg. 1001 in the pew Bible

Pray for Our Members:

Glenda & Bill Eaves
Joseph Egloff & Rana Munna
Rhett, Joyce, Matthew & Sara Rhett Farmer
Caroline Fleming

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month:

Dal & Beth Stanton lead a church planting team in Sofia, Bulgaria. They have developed a special outreach, the “Daughters of Bulgaria” a ministry to prostitutes and women who have been victims of trafficking.

Pray for Those in Need:

Expecting: Hannah Henning (10/14), Mackenzie Lyles (11/8), Lizzie Gossett (12/7), Katie Singleton (12/23) & Bonnie Andree (1/7)

Newborns: June Adams, Ryder Newell, Eleanor Freel & Ben McKenzie

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

Recovering/Sick: Dick Manwaring (stroke), Claire Chastain (radiation) & Mark Ballard (surgery)

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

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

Revelation 17-22: A Tale of Two Cities

Babylon the Harlot (17:1-19:10) & Jerusalem the Bride (21:9-22:9)
and the Transition between the Two Cities (19:11-21:8)

After the destruction of Babylon the Harlot:

...and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” (16:17).

Beginning of the section (17:1-19:10)

One of the 7 angels who had the 7 bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with her wine...”

Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had 7 heads and 10 horns (17:1-3).

Ending of the section (17:1-19:10)

And he added, “These are the true words of God.” At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do it. I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (19:9b-10).

After the revelation of Jerusalem the Bride:

He said to me, “It is done!” I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End (21:6).

Beginning of the section (21:9-22:9)

One of the 7 angels who had the 7 bowls full of the 7 last plagues came and said to me, “Come I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal (21:9-11).

Ending of the section (21:9-22:9)

The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants...”

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” (22:6-9).

Comparing & Contrasting the Harlot & the Bride

- One is clothed with bright & pure linen and adorned with costly jewels, which reflects the glory of God and the righteous deeds of the saints; the other is clothed in purple & scarlet and glittering with gold, precious stones & pearls, which hides her corruption
- One is a pure bride, the 'wife of the Lamb', the true church; the other an impure harlot, 'the Mother of Prostitutes', a counterfeit church
- One faithfully witnesses to the eternal kingdom of God and offers the water of life to the world; the other seduces the world to idolatry, is drunk with the blood of the saints, and by her wine brings death to the world
- One has her security in heaven; the other in her power over the multitudes of the earth
- The bride is the heart of the new creation; the harlot ends in eternal destruction

The Introduction & Destruction of God's Enemies

Death & Hades (1:18; 6:8)

The Dragon (12:3)

The Beasts (13:1, 11)

Babylon the Harlot (14:8)

Babylon the Harlot (17:1-19:10)

The Beasts (19:11-21)

The Dragon (20:1-10)

Death & Hades (20:11-15)

Therefore, Revelation 17-22 is a fuller treatment of the destruction of God's enemies—in reverse order of which they were introduced—and the ushering in of the New Jerusalem in the New Heavens and New Earth. These chapters are a large interpretive review of the 6th & 7th bowls of God's wrath, which foretold the judgment of Babylon. It is best to view the visions of Revelation 17-22 as varying camera angles on the same, final judgment in which God and His Christ will triumph and bring the consummation of the Kingdom of God (rather than distinct events occurring in strict, chronological succession).

(notes taken from Bauckham, Beale, Johnson & Poythress)

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 & 2 short-term Mission Trips
- Central GA Presbytery & General Assembly

*Local Ministries

RUF – Reformed University Fellowship (Mercer, Wesleyan, CSU & VSU)

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 strategic partnerships so that we might make disciples of Jesus Christ of all nations.

• Discipleship Opportunities •

Fall Sunday School Schedule

- 2-3 Year Old: *God's People* taught by Seth & Amy Peed in Room 112
- 4k-2nd: *God Created All Things* taught by Steven & Jill Bloodworth, Hays & Andrea Fyke and Patrick & Andrea Goff in Room 121
- 3rd-5th: *God's Servants* taught by Myra Baker & Tricia Barton in Room 122
- 6th-12th: *1 Peter* taught by Mark Ballard and Bryce Little in the Youth Room
- College: We encourage college students to pick one of the following 4 classes
- Young Adults: *Let's Study 1 Corinthians* taught by Charles Hall, Matt McCommon & Paul Common in Modular Classroom #1
- Middle Adults: *Saints, Sufferers, and Sinners: Loving Others as God Loves Us* taught by Steven Bloodworth, Cal Garretson & Tate Morris in the Fellowship Hall
- Older Adults: *The Good News We Almost Forgot* taught by Lee Burch, Ed Grimsley, Neal Ham, Charlie Parrish, Howard Reed & Dan Strawn in MC #2
- Senior Adults: *Let's Study 2 Peter and Jude* taught by Tommy James & Rob Morton in the Conference Room

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 Classes (K4 - 5th grade)

Youth Group (6th-12th grade)

Men's Small Groups

Women's Bible Study on Lamentations

Adult Bible Study on Romans taught by Rev. Eric Freel

Menu: Grilled & fried fish, baked potatoes, coleslaw, salad bar & dessert.

• Financial Update •

August 31, 2023

General Operations		Faith Promise for Missions	
2023 Receipts:	\$ 880,767	Paid out June 30:	\$ 28,950
2023 Expenses:	\$ 844,089	to support our 18 missionaries for the first half of 2023	
		Needed by Dec. 30:	\$ 30,550
		Cash available:	\$ 32,534

• Announcements •

New Members Class - If you are interested in learning more about NMPC or joining our membership, you are invited to attend the New Members Class, which is comprised of two Sunday night meetings, **tonight & Oct 8 from 5:30 - 8:00 PM** (dinner & childcare are provided). You can sign up for the class & pick up a notebook on the buffet beside Pastor Hunter's office. (We provide make-up sessions if you have a conflict one evening.)

Monday Morning Prayer - We will gather for prayer at 9 AM tomorrow morning.

Installation Service - We will have an Installation Service for our new Executive Pastor, Bob Brunson, next Sunday, October 1st at 6:00 PM with a reception to follow. Please make plans to join us for this special worship service!

Local Ministry Partners - Do you want to learn about our LMPs? Here's your chance!

- Covenant Care Services Banquet: Thur, Sept 28
- Out of Darkness Banquet: Thur, Oct 19
- Strong Tower Fellowship Banquet: Thur, Nov 2

Strong Tower Fellowship - Strong Tower will have a Fall Fest outreach on Thursday, October 19th at 5:30 PM. If you would like to bake goods or volunteer to help serve, please call Amy Drummond at 215-264-8650.

Flowers - The Flower Committee hopes you are enjoying the beautiful flowers on Sunday mornings & special events. Please consider giving flowers one Sunday morning, in honor or in memory of someone (with a \$75 donation). Please give Kathy Pyc a two week notice.



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

Cal Garretson²⁵

Ed Grimsley^{23*}

Neal Ham^{24*}

Tommy James^{25*}

Paul McCommon²³

Rob Morton²³

Charlie Parrish²⁵

Howard Reed²³

Diaconate

Joshua Buckner²⁵

Lee Burch^{23*}

Rick Funk²⁵

Hays Fyke^{25*}

*The number indicates the officer's class; *indicates the officer is at the end of a 2nd term and will roll off*

Staff

Every Member, *Ministers*

Hunter Stevenson, *Senior Pastor*

Bob Brunson, *Executive Pastor*

Mark Ballard, *Youth Director*

Bryce Little, *Youth Intern*

Megan Cathey, *Interim Children's
Ministry Director*

Kathy Pye, *Church Secretary*

Monni Parrish, *Administrator,*

Financial Director & Pianist

Melanie Buckner, *Music Director*

Holly Shepley, *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.