

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

December 3, 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.

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.
They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.
Revelation 21:3*

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

#203 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

* those who are able please stand

*Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 1

Q. Christian, what is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own,
but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.
He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven;
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.
Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him. Amen.

*The Heidelberg Catechism was composed in Heidelberg, Germany in 1563.
It has been translated into many European, Asian, and African languages
and is the most widely used and most warmly praised catechism of the Reformation period.*

*Hymn

#207 - Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Call to Confession

Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

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

Colossians 1:21-22

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

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

Joy to the World

***Hymn of Preparation**

#225 *Once in Royals David's City*
vs. 1,2,4,5

Prayer for Covenant Children

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Children's Church is for children 4 years old through 1st grade.

Please check-in your child for Children's Church at the registration station located in the narthex.

Also, we have a "Cry Room" for our young families where you can see & hear the service.

Sermon

Jerusalem the Bride
Revelation 21:1-8

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 partake of the Lord's Supper this morning. All others, please allow the elements to pass, as you consider your relationship with Christ and His Church.

A Prayer for Salvation

Lord Jesus, I want to become your follower. I come to You acknowledging I am a sinner justly deserving eternal condemnation. I realize there is nothing I can do to make myself acceptable to you through my own efforts. I believe you are God the Son who became a man, lived a perfect life, and then allowed Yourself to be crucified. I believe that as You hung on the cross, God the Father, knowing all about me, took all my sins—past, present, and future—and put them on You, and punished You in my place. I believe You took the wrath of God for me, and you died. I believe your body was placed in a tomb, but after paying for all my sins, You came back from the dead and are alive forevermore. I trust You to save me from my sins and the condemnation I deserve. You are able to do that because You were condemned in my place. I ask You to forgive my sins and give me the gift of eternal life with You. I ask You to save me to a new life lived with and for You. Thank You for Your love. Give me the grace I need so that I might learn Your ways and follow You every day. Amen.

*Hymn of Response

#200 - *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

*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: *Jerusalem the Bride*

Text: Revelation 21:1-8

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

pg. 1004 in your pew Bible

Surface Conflict: the World persecutes the Church (Rev 1-11)

Cycle 1: 7 churches (Rev 1-3)

Cycle 2: 7 seals (Rev 4 - 8:5)

Cycle 3: 7 trumpets (Rev 8:6 - 11)

Deeper Conflict: the Dragon opposes Christ (Rev 12-22)

Cycle 4: War against the Dragon (Rev 12 - 15:5)

Cycle 5: 7 bowls (Rev 15:6 - 16)

Cycle 6: Tale of Two Cities (Rev 17 - 21:8)

Cycle 7: New Heaven & New Earth (Rev 21:9 - 22)

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)

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...

Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast (17:1-3).

End 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! (19:9b-10).

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...and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem (21:9-11).

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

The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true...”

I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel... But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers...who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” (22:6-9).

Consequently, Revelation 17-22 is a large interpretive REVIEW of the 6th & 7th bowls of God’s wrath (Rev 16:12-21). It is best to view the visions in Revelation 17-22 as *varying camera angles on the same, final judgment* in which Christ will triumph over all His (and our) enemies and bring the consummation of the Kingdom of God.

The Transition Between the Two Cities (19:11-21:8)

19:11-21	The destruction of the 2 Beasts
20:1-10	The destruction of the Dragon
20:11-15	The destruction of Death & Hades
21:1-8	The revelation of Jerusalem the Bride

Pray for Our Members:

Moses & Mary Lee
Mary Jane Leggett
Lynn Leverette
Elaine Libbey

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month:

Tomo Ito is also a part of a ministry that helps the Warm Springs community to flourish in Madras, Oregon serving with Sacred Road Ministries.

Pray for Those in Need:

Expecting: Lizzie Gossett (12/7), Katie Singleton (12/23), Bonnie Andree (1/7) & Ember Bentley (3/13)

Newborns: Eden Lyles, Jack Henning, June Adams, Ryder Newell, Eleanor Freel & Ben McKenzie

Members Caring for Loved Ones: Monni Parrish (dad); Joseph Egloff (mom); Rana Munna (mom); Margaret Rogers (mom); Pam Cook (mom)

Recovering/Sick: Dick Manwaring (stroke)

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); Rebecca Lober (dad); Becky Gorman (Randy)

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

• 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).

Lessons & Carols will begin at 6:45 PM

Menu: Chicken Tetrazzini, Salad Bar, Garlic Bread & Lemon Cake with Almond Frosting.

• Financial Update •

October 31, 2023

General Operations		Faith Promise for Missions	
2023 Receipts:	\$ 1,077,457	Paid out June 30:	\$ 28,050
2023 Expenses:	\$ 1,093,413	to support 18 missionaries	
		Paid out October 31:	\$ 30,550
		to support 19 missionaries	
		Cash Available	\$ 1,973

• Announcements •

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

Poinsettias - Please help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! Please purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The deadline is Friday, December 8th.

Lessons & Carols - Our annual "Evening of Lessons and Carols" will be this Wednesday, December 6th at 6:45 PM. This will be a special Christmas service filled with singing featuring our children, the ensemble, and instrumentalists. Invite a friend!

Christmas Eve - Our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service will be at 5:00 PM.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement - Perspectives is a 15-week discipleship course designed to help you find your place in God's global purpose. It's an intensive class taught by 15 instructors who will speak from the biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic "perspectives" on fulfilling the Great Commission. The class will be held on Sundays from 4:00-6:30 PM, beginning January 7, at The Annex at Ingleside on Riverside. Visit their website (Perspectives.org) to learn more and to register for the class.

Flowers - The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John B. Gamble by Jim & Phyllis Gamble.



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

Paul McCommon²³

Ed Grimsley^{23*}

Rob Morton²³

Neal Ham^{24*}

Charlie Parrish²⁵

Tommy James^{25*}

Howard Reed²³

Diaconate

Joshua Buckner²⁵

Rick Funk²⁵

Lee Burch^{23*}

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*

Kathy Pye, *Church Secretary*

Hunter Stevenson, *Senior Pastor*

Monni Parrish, *Administrator,*

Bob Brunson, *Executive Pastor*

Financial Director & Pianist

Mark Ballard, *Youth Director*

Melanie Buckner, *Music Director*

Bryce Little, *Youth Assistant*

Holly Shepley, *North Macon*

Megan Cathey, *Interim Children's
Ministry Director*

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.