

THE LORD'S DAY

# Worship

December 10, 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.

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*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.  
Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
John 15:12-13*

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Bob Brunson

Introit

Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

People: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

People: **He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.**

Pastor: The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

\*Praise Hymn

#194 - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
vs. 1,3,4,5

\* *those who are able please stand*

\*Invocation

Dr. David Todd

\*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.*

\*Hymn

#201– O Little Town of Bethlehem

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*

### Corporate Confession

Gracious Savior and Lord, you have every right to ask us, “Do you love me?” For like Peter, we have denied you with our words and actions. You said that to love you was to keep your commandments, yet we have disobeyed both the letter and the spirit of your holy law. You said that whoever loves you will also love his neighbor, yet we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us for not taking up our crosses to follow you and for not dying to ourselves. Forgive us for not finding our delight in you. Forgive us for failing to declare your praises and for failing to live as your ambassadors in this world. Forgive us for not seeking first your kingdom nor considering you our most precious treasure. Forgive us for forsaking you, our first love. Cause us to recognize how far we have fallen, to repent of our sins and return to you. Amen.

### Silent Confession

### Words of Assurance

Psalm 130:3-4

*If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.*

### 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.

## Scripture Reading

1 John 3:11-24

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

\*Hymn of Preparation

#216 - *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Prayer for Covenant Children

Rev. Bob Brunson

*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

*Help for the Long Haul*  
Philippians 1:9-11

Rev. Bob Brunson

\*Hymn of Response

*#230 - Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor*

\*Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 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](mailto:monni@nmpc.net) and she will add you to the distribution list.*

# • The Preached Word •

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**Title:** *Help for the Long Haul*

**Text:** Philippians 1:9-11

**Pastor:** Rev. Bob Brunson

pg. 951 in your pew Bible

# 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, CSU & VSU)

STF – Strong Tower Fellowship

CCS – Covenant Care Services

EE – Evangelism Explosion

CC – Campus Clubs

OOD – Out of Darkness



**Pray for Our Members:**

Alan & Kathy Little  
Bill & Rebecca Lober  
Betty Luce  
Joe, MacKenzie, Nora, Jane, Simon & Eden Lyles

**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 •

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## Fall Sunday School Schedule

Dec 17	Churchwide Brunch
Dec 24	No Sunday School
Dec 31	No Sunday School
Jan 7	Sunday School Resumes

## Wednesday Night Activities

We will resume Wednesday Night Dinner & Activities on January 10th, 2024.

# • Financial Update •

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November 30, 2023

General Operations		Faith Promise for Missions	
2023 Receipts:	\$ 1,176,612	Paid out June 30:	\$ 28,050
2023 Expenses:	\$ 1,194,689	to support 18 missionaries	
		Paid out October 31:	\$ 30,550
		to support 19 missionaries	
		Cash Available	\$ 5,267

# • Announcements •

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

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

**Women's Christmas Dinner** - The Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner will be December 12th at 6:30 here at the church. Please join us to celebrate with dinner & beautiful music. Laura Adams will share her testimony. Please register on Realm or call Kathy Pyc before Monday at noon to reserve a reservation.

**Strong Tower** - Strong Tower is collecting new and gently used cold weather clothing and bedding to give away at Pleasant Hill. Please see Amy Drummond to donate, take to Strong Tower on Tuesday and Thursdays or put in the boxes provided here in the foyer.

**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](http://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 honor of Larry & Peggy Defore's wedding anniversary.



# 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.

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## Session

Cal Garretson<sup>25</sup>

Paul McCommon<sup>23</sup>

Ed Grimsley<sup>23\*</sup>

Rob Morton<sup>23</sup>

Neal Ham<sup>24\*</sup>

Charlie Parrish<sup>25</sup>

Tommy James<sup>25\*</sup>

Howard Reed<sup>23</sup>

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## Diaconate

Joshua Buckner<sup>25</sup>

Rick Funk<sup>25</sup>

Lee Burch<sup>23\*</sup>

Hays Fyke<sup>25\*</sup>

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

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## 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*

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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.*