

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

December 31, 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.

*For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way,
in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God,
and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.
Hebrews 2:17*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

from Psalm 107

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

People: **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so!**

Pastor: Some wandered in desert wastelands, hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

People: **Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men!**

Pastor: Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

People: **Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men!**

Pastor: Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

People: **Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men!**

*Praise Hymn

#55 – *To God Be the Glory*

*Invocation

Rev. Bob Brunson

*Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechisms 44 & 55

Q. 44. Christian, how does Christ execute the office of a priest?

- A. Christ executes the office of a priest,
in his once offering himself a sacrifice without spot to God,
to be a reconciliation for the sins of his people;
and in making continual intercession for them.

Q. 55. How does Christ make intercession?

- A. Christ makes intercession,
by his appearing in our nature continually
before the Father in heaven,
in the merit of his own obedience and sacrifice on earth,
declaring his will to have it applied to all believers;
answering all accusations against them,
and procuring for them peace of conscience,
despite their daily failings,
access with boldness to the throne of grace,
and acceptance of their persons and acts of service.

The Westminster Larger Catechism summarizes the teachings of Scripture in a question and answer format.

It was comprised at the Westminster Assembly in London (1643-1648), and it sets forth the doctrinal standards of North Macon Presbyterian Church and our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America.

* those who are able please stand

Before the Throne of God Above

Bancroft/Cook



Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me
 Be - hold Him there the ri - sen Lamb, my per - fect
 strong and per - fect plea; A great High Priest whose name is
of my guilt with - in, Up - ward I look and see Him
 spot - less Right - eous - ness; the Great un - change - a - ble I
 love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is gra - ven on His
there who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior
 Am, the King of Glo - ry and of grace. One with Him - self I can - not
 hands; My name is writ - ten on His heart. I know that
died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed free. For God, the
 die; my soul is pur - chased by His blood. My life is
 while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
just, is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don me.
 hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

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Call to Confession

Hebrews 7:23-25

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Corporate Confession

from Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Cleanse me, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Hebrews 9:28

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

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

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18
page 968 in the pew Bible

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery



Come be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, in the dawn-ing of the King. He the
Come be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, He the per-fect Son of Man. In His
Come be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, Christ the Lord up-on the tree. In the
Come be-hold the won-drous mys-t'ry, slain by death, the God of life. But no



theme of heav-en's praise-es, robed in frail hu-man-i-ty. In our
liv-ing, in His suf-fring, ne-ver trace, nor stain of sin. See the
stead of ru-ined sin-ners hangs the Lamb in vic-to-ry. See the
grave could e'er re-strain Him. Praise the Lord, He is a-live! What a



long-ing, in our dark-ness, now the light of life has come. Look to
true and bet-ter A-dam, come to save the hell-bound man. Christ, the
price of our re-demp-tion, see the Fa-ther's plan un-fold. Bring-ing
fore-taste of de-liv-'rance, how un-wa-ver-ing our hope. Christ in



Christ, who con-de-scend-ed, took on flesh to ran-som us.
great and sure ful-fill-ment of the law, in Him we stand.
man-y sons to glo-ry; grace un-meas-ured, love un-told.
pow-er res-ur-rect-ed, as we will be when He comes.

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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.

Scrmon

Our Great High Priest
Hebrews 4:14-16

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

*Hymn of Response

#226 – *As With Gladness Men of Old*

*Benediction

Jude 24-25

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling 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 authority, 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

• Announcements •

Office - The Church Office will be closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

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. 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 are given to the glory of God and in memory of Melanie Grier, by her husband, Jim Grier. Her birthday would have been December 29th.

• The Preached Word •

Title: *Our Great High Priest*

Text: Hebrews 4:14-16

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

pg. 970 in your pew Bible