

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

February 4, 2024



NORTH MACON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Important Reminders:

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

*The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.
Zephaniah 3:17b*

Preclude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

Ephesians 1:3-8

- Pastor: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ!
- People: **For he chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.**
- Pastor: In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—
- People: **To the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves!**
- Pastor: In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,
- People: **In accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.**

** 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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Q. Christian, what do you believe about your adoption as a child of God?

We believe that all those who are justified,
God graciously guarantees
to make partakers of the grace of adoption,
in and for his only Son, Jesus Christ.

By this act they are taken into the number of God's children
and enjoy the liberties and privileges of that relationship:
they are given His name;
they receive the Spirit of adoption;
they have access to the throne of grace with boldness;
and they are enabled to cry, "Abba, Father."

Like a father, God has compassion on them,
protects them,
provides for them,
and chastens them;
yet, they will never be cast off,
but are sealed to the day of redemption,
and will inherit the promises as heirs of everlasting salvation.

*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 North Macon Presbyterian Church and our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America.*

Sacrament of Baptism

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Aliya Ruth Precetti Ballard

Baptismal Vows

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?
4. Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Congregational Prayer

Take My Life and Let It Be

*Take her life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take her moments and her days; let them flow in ceaseless praise
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

Call to Confession

Hosca 14:1-2

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.

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 103:10-12

*He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

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

My Worth Is Not In What I Own

My Worth Is Not In What I Own



1. My worth is not in what I own; not
2. **My worth is not in skill or name; in**
3. As sum - mer flowers we fade and die; Fame,
4. **I will not boast in wealth or might, or**
5. Two won - ders here that I con - fess: My



in the strength of flesh and bone. But in the cost - ly wounds of
win or lose, in pride or shame. But in the blood of Christ that
youth and beau - ty hur - ry by. But life e - ter - nal calls to
hu - man wis - dom's fleet - ing light. But I will boast in know - ing
worth and my un - worth - i - ness. My va - lue fixed, my ran - som

Refrain



love at the cross. (to vs. 2)
flowed at the cross. I re-joice in my Re-deem-er Great-est trea-sure, Well-spring
us at the cross. (to vs. 4)
Christ at the cross.
paid at the cross.



of my soul. **I will trust in Him, no oth-er my soul is sa-tis-fied in Him a-lone.**

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

*The Wife of the Lamb
Revelation 21:9-14*

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

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.

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

Turn Your Eyes

Turn Your Eyes

Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus look full in His won-der-ful
Turn your eyes to the hill - side where jus - tice and mer-cy em -
Turn your eyes to the morn - ing and see Christ the li - on a -
Turn your eyes to the hea - vens, our King will re - turn for His
face. and the things of earth will grow strange - ly dim, in the
brace. There the Son of God gave His life for us, and our
wake. What a glo - rious dawn, fear of death is gone, for we
own. Ev - ery knee will bow, ev - ery tongue will shout "All the
light of His glo - ry and grace. (to 2nd vs.) Je - sus to You we lift our
mea - sure-less debt was e - rased.
car - ry His life in our veins.
glo - ry to Je - sus a - lone!"
eyes. Je - sus our glo-ry and our prize. We a-dore You be -
hold You our Sav-ior ev - er true. Oh Je - sus we turn our eyes to You.

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*Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up the light of his countenance upon you and
give you peace, both 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

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

• The Preached Word •

Title: *The Wife of the Lamb*

Text: Revelation 21:9-14

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

pg. 1004 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:

Charlie & Kathy Pyc
Jack & Sara Pyles
Liz Ream
Howard & Debi Reed

Pray for Our Missionary of the Month:

Stan & Connie Beasley are with the 18:26 Network Ministry, a division of MTW that focuses on vocational missions.

Pray for Those in Need:

Expecting: Ember Bentley (3/7), Jessie Schnetzer (7/ 2024)

Newborns: Charlee Andree, Grayson Gossett, Perry Singleton, Eden Lyles, Jack Henning, June Adams, Ryder Newell, & Eleanor Frecl

Members Caring for Loved Ones: Monni Parrish (dad); Joseph Egloff (mom); Rana Munna (mom); Margaret Rogers (mom); Rod Baker (Bess)

Recovering/Sick: Dick Manwaring (stroke), Bess Baker (stroke)

Bereaved: Cathy Smith (JC); Madeline Thompson (mom & sister); Carol Dawson (sister); Lynn & Aaron Hogg & Melissa Newell (Jerry); Brad Bibb (mom); Helen Johnson (mom)

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

Discipleship Opportunities

Spring Sunday School

9:30 – 10:30 AM

2-3 Year-Olds: *God's Son* (room 112). Teacher: Amy Peed

4k-2nd Grade: *Jesus is God's Son* (room 121). Teachers: Steven & Jill Bloodworth, Hays & Andrea Fyke, Matt & Megan Cathey

3rd-5th Grade: *The Biggest Story* (room 122). Teachers: Myra Baker, Beth McSween

6th-12th Grade: *I Peter* (youth room). Teachers: Mark Ballard, Bryce Little

Young Adults: *Let's Study I Corinthians* (Modular Classroom 1)

Middle Adults: *The Gospel of Mark* (Fellowship Hall)

Older Adults: *The Good News We Almost Forgot*, part 2 (Modular Classroom 2)

Senior Adults: *The Good News We Almost Forgot*, part 1 (Conference Room)

Women's Bible Studies

I Peter: A Living Hope in Christ, Wednesday Mornings, 10 am (Conference Room)

I Peter: A Living Hope in Christ, Wednesday Evenings, 6:30 pm (Conference Room)

I Peter: A Living Hope in Christ, Friday Mornings, 10 am (Conference Room)

Men's Small Groups

A Study of James, Tuesday mornings, 6:30 am (Conference Room).

A Study of 1 Samuel, Thursday mornings, 6:45 am (Conference Room)

Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community, Sunday evenings, 6:15 pm (Conference Room)

What Did You Expect? Redeeming the Realities of Marriage, Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm (Conference Room)

Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters, Wednesday evenings (old Conference Room).

Wednesday Nights @ NMPC

Join us for dinner with the church family at 5:45, then stay for Catechism Club for children (pre-K - 5th grade), Youth Group (6th-12th grade), or Adult Bible Study in Romans with Eric Freel at 6:30. Dinner is \$5/adults/teen, \$2/child, with a family max \$15.

Menu: Bar-b-que, baked beans, buns, chips, cole slaw, salad bar & cookies

Announcements

Welcome, Guests! – We are so glad you’ve come to worship with us today! Please feel free to speak with one of the pastors after the service. They would be glad to answer any questions you may have and would enjoy meeting you. If you would like to receive email communications from the church, please email Monni Parrish at monni@nmnpc.net and we will gladly add you to the distribution list.

Monday Morning Prayer – Each Monday we gather at 9 AM in the conference room to pray for the needs of the congregation and the work of the church—come join us tomorrow!

Faith Promise - The way NMPC supports its 20 missionaries around the world is through Faith Promise giving. Ask the Lord how much He would have you contribute to the spread of the gospel around the world this year, and then commit to give that amount as God provides. You’re welcome to turn in a response card anytime between now and Sunday, February 25. Extra Faith Promise cards are available at the Welcome Desk in the narthex.

A Heart for Ministry - The NMPC Women’s Ministry is hosting “A Heart for Ministry,” a celebration of our local ministry partnerships, for the whole church family on Sunday Feb 25 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a panel discussion with representatives from 5 local ministries, with an emphasis on volunteer opportunities in the community. Dessert and coffee will be served, and childcare will be available. Registration will open this week on Realm.

Men’s Retreat – Registration is now open for our inaugural Men’s Retreat, March 1-3, 2024 (Fri-Sun), at Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge in McRae-Helena. The weekend get-away will focus on God’s calling to men as leaders in their families, communities, and church with speaker Eric Freel, with plenty of time for fellowship and fun as well. The cost will be \$200 per person (double occupancy), or \$400 if you prefer a single room. Dads are welcome to bring their high-school aged sons too. Register on Realm by February 15 to guarantee your spot, or stop by the table in the Narthex today.

Flowers - The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Norma Elder by Jim & Phyllis Gamble. There are plenty of dates available in 2024 to place flowers in memory or in honor of a loved. The suggested donation for a Sunday arrangement is \$75; please provide at least two-weeks’ notice to allow time to order materials from the florist. To schedule a date, contact Kathy Pye in the church office at kathy@nmnpc.net or 478-477-7777.

Church App – The best way to stay up-to-date and informed is by downloading our church’s app, Realm Connect. To request instructions on how to download the app, email Monni in the church office at monni@nmnpc.net.



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
Neal Ham^{24*}
Tommy James^{25*}

Paul McCommon^{26*}
Rob Morton^{26*}
Charlie Parrish²⁵
Howard Reed^{26*}

Diaconate

Joshua Buckner²⁵
Lee Burch²⁴

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 Assistant*
Megan Cathey, *Children's Ministry Director*

Kathy Pye, *Church Secretary*
Monni Parrish, *Administrator,
Financial Director & Pianist*
Melanie Buckner, *Music Director*
Holly Shepley, *North Macon
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.