

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

December 8, 2024



NORTH MACON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Order of Worship
Sunday, December 8, 2024

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

Psalm 118:1-4, 15-16, 22-24

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

People: **His love endures forever.**

Pastor: Let Israel say:

Women: His love endures forever.

Pastor: Let the house of Aaron say:

Men: His love endures forever.

Pastor: Let those who fear the LORD say:

People: **His love endures forever.**

Pastor: Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

Men: The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

Women: The LORD's right hand is lifted high!

Men: The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

Pastor: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

People: **The LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes!**

Pastor: This is the day the LORD has made;

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

*Please turn off all cellular devices during the worship service
and do not bring food or drink into the sanctuary.*

*Praise Hymn

#196 - *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Invocation

Rev. Bob Brunson

*Confession of Faith

Westminster Confession of Faith, Section 8.2

Pastor: Christian, what do you believe about the Incarnation?

People: We believe that the Son of God,
the second person in the Trinity,
being truly and eternally God—
of one substance and equal with the Father—
did, when the fullness of time had come,
take upon himself man's nature,
with all its essential properties and common infirmities,
yet without sin.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
in the womb of the virgin Mary and of her substance.
In this way, two whole natures,
the divine and the human, perfect and distinct,
were inseparably joined together in one person
without being changed, mixed, or confused.
This person is truly God and truly man,
yet one Christ,
the only mediator between God and man. Amen.

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.

*Hymn

#211 - *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

* those who are able please stand

Call to Confession

1 John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

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

1 John 2:1b-2

*If anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

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

What Child is This?

***Hymn of Preparation**

#230 - Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

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

Sermon

*Elijah is Taken to Heaven
2 Kings 2:1-18*

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

***Hymn of Response**

#207 - Good Christian Men Rejoice

***Benediction**

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. 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**

• The Preached Word •

Title: *Elijah is Taken to Heaven*

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Text: 2 Kings 2:1-18

pg. 291 in the pew Bible

Providing a Home

Members of the Week:

Wayne & Pat Yarbrough
Skip & Debbie Yetter

Expecting: Kristen Vaughn (3/2) & Hannah McCommon (3/22)

Newborns: Adelaide Foster, Parker Schnetzer, Heidi Bentley, Charlee Andree,
Grayson Gossett, Perry Singleton, Eden Lyles, Jack Henning

Recovering: Dick Manwaring (stroke); Bess Baker (stroke)

Bereaved: Madeline Thompson (dad, mom & sister); Fiona Leggett (mom);
Kathy Little (dad); Bryce Little & Hannah McCommon
(grandfather); Donna Rohn (Terry); Amy Drummond (dad)

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

Proclaiming the Gospel

Church's Leaders: The Session, Diaconate, and Staff

Ministry of the Week: Children's Ministry

Officer Nominees: Jim Gamble, Ed Grimsley & Charles Hall (elder
nominees); Matt Cathey & Jack Pyles (deacon nominees)

Partnering with Ministries

Missionaries of the Month:

**Julian and Rachel are part of a church planting team in Brussels. Rachel also works with Community Bible Study International.*

**Stan & Connie Beasley are mobilizers for MTW's Southeast Hub, focusing on a culture of missions among presbyterics, churches, seminaries and colleges.*

Sister Church of the Week: Houston Lake Presbyterian Church (Kathleen)

Local Ministry Partner of the Week: Covenant Care Adoptions

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. Be sure to sign the Book of Friendship when it’s passed during the offering time this morning so we can say thank you for joining us in worship today.

If you desire to receive email communications from the church, please email Monni Parrish at monni@nmnpc.net and she will add you to the distribution list. She can also assist you with signing up for the church’s app, Realm Connect, as well!

Congregational Meeting Today – All communing members of NMPC are encouraged to stay after today’s service for a brief congregational meeting to elect officers. Our elder nominees are Jim Gamble, Ed Grimsley, and Charles Hall; our deacon nominees are Matt Cathey & Jack Pyles.

“Wonderfully Made” “Wonderfully Made,” a time for 3rd – 8th grade girls to come together to be reminded of the truths of who God created them to be through Bible study and creative arts, will meet this afternoon from 4 – 6 pm at NMPC. See you here!

Monday 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!

Ladies’ Christmas Dinner - Our Annual Ladies’ Christmas Dinner will be THIS Tues, Dec 10th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Ladies may sign up on Realm or in the narthex. If you would like to decorate one of our tables for the event, you can sign up for that in the narthex too.

Christmas Fellowship Brunch – Plan now to join us next Sunday morning at 9:30 am as we wrap up the fall Sunday School term with our annual Christmas Fellowship Brunch! If you would like to bring food or help with the setup, please follow this link: bit.ly/XmasBrunch2024.

Advent Season Dates to Save – As you plan your celebration of the Christmas season, be sure keep the following events and services in mind:

Tuesday, 12/10 – Ladies Christmas Dinner (6:30 pm)

Sunday, 12/15 – Annual Christmas Fellowship Brunch (during the Sunday School hour)

Tuesday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve Service (5 pm)

Friday, 12/27 – Timberlake/Leggett Wedding (11am - the congregation is invited!)

Sunday, 12/29 – Worship & Celebration of the Lord’s Supper (10:45 am)

Sunday, 1/5 – Officer Ordination & Installation Service (10:45 am)

2025 Women’s Retreat SAVE THE DATE - Join us February 7-9 at the Callaway Gardens Lodge and Spa for the 2025 Women’s Retreat. Registration is now open on Realm!