

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship

January 5, 2025



NORTH MACON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Order of Worship
Sunday, January 5, 2025

*Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
Hebrews 13:7*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Introit

Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Pastor: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth!

People: **Serve the LORD with gladness! Come before him with joyful songs!**

Pastor: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

People: **Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him and praise his name!**

Pastor: For the LORD is good, and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

***Praise Hymn**

#1 - All People that on Earth Do Dwell

** those who are able please stand*

Please turn off all cellular devices during the worship service

PASTOR: Christian, what do you believe about church government?

PEOPLE: We believe that the true church of Jesus Christ ought to be governed according to the spiritual order that our Lord has taught us in his Word:

There should be ministers or pastors
to preach the Word of God
and administer the sacraments.

There should also be elders and deacons,
along with the pastors,
to make up the council of the church.

By this means,
true religion is preserved;
true doctrine is able to take its course;
evil men are corrected spiritually and held in check;
and also the poor and all the afflicted
may be helped and comforted, according to their need.

By this means,
everything will be done well
and in good order in the church,
when such persons are elected,
who are faithful
and are chosen according to the rule
that Paul gave Timothy. Amen.

The Belgic Confession was composed in 1561 by Guido de Brés. It was adopted at the Synod of Dordt in 1619 as one of the doctrinal standards to which all office bearers in the Reformed churches were required to subscribe. The confession stands as one of the best symbolical statements of Reformed doctrine.

Call to Confession

Psalm 51:17

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Corporate Confession

Holy Jesus, Mighty Savior, Merciful King, Forgive my sins: forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten; forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction; forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements and the times when I have failed to boast in your works; forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself; forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided; forgive me the pain I have caused others and the indulgence I have shown myself. Lord Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole; help me rest in your grace. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Isaiah 43:25

*I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.*

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

Ordination & Installation of Officers

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Deacons: Matt Cathcy & Jack Pyles**

Ruling Elders: Jim Gamble, Ed Grimsley & Charles Hall*

Ordination Vows

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of ruling elder or deacon in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

**these men were previously ordained to their office*

Congregational Vow

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Do you, the members of North Macon Presbyterian Church, acknowledge and receive Jim Gamble, Ed Grimsley, and Charles Hall as ruling elders, and Matt Cathey & Jack Pyles as deacons, and do you promise to yield them all that honor, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord to which their offices, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles them?

Laying on of Hands

Elders in the PCA

Prayer of Consecration

Rev. Bob Brunson

Right Hand of Fellowship

Elders and Deacons of NMPC

Declaration of Installation

Rev. Hunter Stevenson

I now pronounce and declare that Jim Gamble, Ed Grimsley & Charles Hall have been regularly elected, ordained and installed as ruling elders in this church, and that Matt Cathey & Jack Pyles have been regularly elected, ordained and installed as deacons in this church, agreeable to the Word of God, and according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America; and that as such they are entitled to all encouragement, honor and obedience in the Lord: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Speak, O Lord

Townend and Getty

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to re - ceive the food of Your
Teach us Lord full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -
 Speak, O Lord, and re - new — our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your
 ho - ly word. Take Your truth, plant it deep — in us; — Shape and
mil - i - ty. — Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us. — Truths un - changed from the dawn — of time, that will
 fash - ion us — in Your like — ness, that the light of Christ might be
ra - di - ance of Your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on Your
 seen to-day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
eyes to see Your ma - je - stic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
 pro - mi - ses, and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till Your
 fill — in us — all Your pur - po - ses for Your glo - ry.
ne - ver fail; Let their truth — pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 church — is built, and the earth — is filled with Your glo - ry.

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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 Children's wing.

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

*Hymn of Response

He Will Hold Me Fast

He Will Hold Me Fast

Habershon(1906)/M. Merker(2013)

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2. *Those He saves are His de-light,* Christ will hold me fast;
 3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;

When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
Pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.
 Just - ice has been sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast.

I could nev - er keep my hold through life's fear - ful path;
He'll not let my soul be lost; His prom - is - es shall last;
 Raised with Him to end - less life, He will hold me fast

For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me fast.
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
 'till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

For my Sa - rior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

***Benediction**

Romans 15:5-6

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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: *Obey Your Leaders*

Pastor: Rev. Hunter Stevenson

Text: Hebrews 13:7-8, 17-18

pg. 976 in the pew Bible

Providing a Home

Members of the Week:

Benjamin Baker
Charles & Myra Baker
Rod & Bess Baker
Mark, Kara & Aliya Ballard

Expecting: Kristen Vaughn (3/2), Hannah McCommon (3/22), Megan Cathey (6/19) & Kaleigh Freel

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); Kaleigh Freel (grandmother); Ann Herndon (grandson)

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: Music & Worship Ministry

Partnering with Ministries

Missionaries of the Month:

**Brian & Mandy are engaged in evangelism and discipleship as part of a church-planting movement in a major city in Southeast Asia.*

**Rodney & Jana Davila are transitioning to El Salvador to continue their work of planting churches and teaching and training pastors.*

Sister Church of the Week: Redeemer Presbyterian Church (Valdosta)

Local Ministry Partner of the Week: Campus Clubs

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.

Providing a Home

- Warm & welcoming to all who come
- Connected & caring for one another
- Vulnerable & gracious with one another

Proclaiming the Gospel

- Christ-centered worship & expository preaching
- Classes for all ages to educate, encourage & equip
- Small Groups to disciple & deepen relationships

Partnering with Ministries

- North Macon Preschool
- Global Missionaries & Annual Mission Trip
- Central GA Presbytery & The General Assembly of the PCA
- Ministry Partners
 - Reformed University Fellowship (Mercer, Wesleyan & Columbus State)
 - Strong Tower Fellowship
 - Covenant Care Services
 - Freedom Collective (formerly Out of Darkness)
 - Campus Clubs

A Further Explanation

Providing a Home

We believe “Providing a Home” meets one of the unique needs for those living in North Macon. We tend to be isolated and lonely. We tend to live fragmented and disconnected lives, and advances in technology seem to be making matters worse. We tend to pride ourselves on “having it all together” and giving the appearance that we do not need anyone or anything.

We desperately need a place where we can take off our masks, admit our sin and failures, and be received and accepted. We long for a genuine community where we can be loved as we really are, and, in turn, love others as they really are. NMPC is committed to be that place—a home—where folks are welcomed, embraced, and loved.

Proclaiming the Gospel

NMPC’s primary task is to “Proclaim the Gospel”, for the Gospel is the power of God for salvation. To spell it out more particularly, we are committed to preach the good news of Jesus Christ, in the whole counsel of Scripture, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with Reformed theological convictions, in a caring and gracious community, so that we might present everyone perfect in Christ. Therefore, in every worship service, every Sunday school class, every small group, and every ministry of the church, we are committed to proclaim the Gospel as of chief importance for the transformation of lives.

Partnering with Ministries

NMPC is also committed to carrying the good news of the Gospel—in word and deed—into our community and around the world. We seek to do so through strategic partnerships with *ministries* in our community and *missionaries* around the globe. We are committed to **pray** for, **partner** with, and **participate** in these strategic partnerships so that we might make disciples of Jesus Christ of all nations.

Discipleship Opportunities

Fall Sunday School 9:30 – 10:30 AM

2-3 Year-Old: *God's Son* (room 112). Teacher: Seth & Amy Peed
4k-2nd Grade: *Living in God's Family* (room 121). Teacher: Megan Cathey
3rd-5th Grade: *The Biggest Story* (room 122). Teachers: Beth McSween
6th-12th Grade: *Gospel of Mark* (youth room). Teachers: Mark Ballard, Bryce Little

20's-30's: *The Study of Luke* (Modular 1)
30's-50's: *The Good News We Almost Forgot*, (Modular 2)
50's-60's: *Let's Study Mark* (Fellowship Hall)
66+: *The Letters of John* (conference room)

Men's Small Groups

(all studies meet at NMPC)

Sundays (6:15-7:30 pm): *The Letters of John* (conference room), begins 1/12
Wednesdays (6:30-7:30 pm): *Men Reading Good Books* (old conference room), begins 1/8
Thursdays (6:45-7:45 am): *Let's Study John* (conference room)

Ladies' Bible Studies

(all studies meet in the conference room at NMPC)

Tuesdays (10-11:30 am): *Seven Feasts*. (childcare available on request), begins 1/14
Wednesdays (6:30-7:30 pm): *Seven Feasts* (childcare available), begins 1/8
Fridays (10-11:30 am): *1 Samuel: Choose Your King*, begins 1/10

Wednesday Nights @ NMPC

Resumes January 8

Join us for dinner with the church family at 5:45, then stay for groups and studies for children, youth, & adults from 6:30 - 7:30. Dinner is \$7/adults/teen, \$3/child, with a family max \$20.

Menu: Grilled Chicken Alfredo, Steamed Broccoli, Salad Bar, Garlic Bread & Dessert.

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@nmpc.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!

Monday Prayer – Join us tomorrow morning at 9 am in the conference room as Monday Prayer resumes for the new year.

Wednesday Night Ministries Return This Week – Plan now to join us this Wednesday, January 8, as the Spring session of Wednesday Night studies & groups for all ages begins. For details, be sure to look at the Discipleship Opportunities on page 13 in today’s bulletin.

Prayer Partners: Looking for a way to impact the next generation of believers this year? Then become a Prayer Partner! Our Prayer Partners will commit to pray for a family over the next six months. Our goal is to connect every child and youth with a Prayer Partner, which means we need at least 47 members to make a commitment of prayer. You can sign up on Realm or visit the registration table in the narthex. The deadline to register is January 19th.

Strong Tower Fellowship Winter Clothing Drive– We are again collecting donations of winter coats, clothing, and blankets for the people in the Pleasant Hill community. You may drop off your donations in the lobby outside the Fellowship Hall anytime between now and mid-January when Strong Tower will hold its annual distribution event. Thanks!

2025 Women’s Retreat - Join us February 7-9 at the Callaway Gardens Lodge and Spa for the 2025 Women’s Retreat entitled “*I Have the Joy!*” Register today on Realm.

SAVE the DATE: Sacred Road Mission Trip - Now is the time to start praying about joining the team heading to Washington State the week of May 31 - June 7 to serve the people of the Yakama Reservation. Applications to join the team will be available soon.

Flowers - The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of our Deacons & Elders.



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 by providing a home, proclaiming the Gospel, and partnering with ministries.

Session

Jim Gamble
Cal Garretson
Ed Grimsley
Charles Hall
Neal Ham

Tommy James
Paul McCommon
Rob Morton
Charlie Parrish
Howard Reed

Diaconate

Joshua Buckner
Matt Cathey

Rick Funk
Hays Fyke
Jack Pyles

Staff

Every Member, *Ministers*
Hunter Stevenson, *Senior Pastor*
Bob Brunson, *Executive Pastor*
David Todd, *Pastor Emeritus*
Mark Ballard, *Youth Director*
Bryce Little, *Youth Assistant*
Melanie Buckner, *Music Director*

Megan Cathey, *Children's Ministry Director*
Kathy Pye, *Church Secretary*
Monni Parrish, *Administrator, Financial Director & Pianist*
Holly Shepley, *North Macon Preschool Director*

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.