



## **THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

Fear imprisons, faith liberates;  
Fear paralyzes, faith empowers;  
Fear disheartens, faith encourages;  
Fear sickens, faith heals;  
Fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life,  
Faith rejoices in God!

-Harry Emerson Fosdick

***NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH***  
*3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211*

**THE ACT OF WORSHIP**  
**The Second Sunday in Lent**  
March 8, 2020  
Ten-thirty o'clock

**PREPARATION AND PRAISE**

The worship of God begins this morning as you enter the Sanctuary. You are encouraged to use these moments for meditation, reflection and prayer. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your fellowship with those around you.

**The Meditation of Preparation**

In deepest night, in darkest days, no songs we raise,  
when silence must suffice as praise.  
Yet sounding in us quietly, there is the song of God.

-Susan Palo Cherwien

**The Prelude**

“See the Lord of Life and Light”  
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Bach  
Hobby

**The Call to Worship**

“Drop, Drop, Slow Tears”

Gibbons

Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet,  
which brought from heav'n the news and Prince of peace.

Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;  
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;  
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

**\*The Procession of the Lenten Banner**

Anna Mitchell Peters

**\*The Processional Hymn No. 52 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”**

ELLACOMBE

**\*The Litany of Praise**

Norman Perkins

Leader: The Lord be with you;

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: We lift up our eyes to the hills,  
From where shall our help come?

**People: Our help comes from the Lord,  
Who has made heaven and earth.**

Leader: Our God, who never sleeps, is our keeper;  
No power, neither sun nor moon, can smite us.

**All: The Lord protects us from all evil,  
And keeps our souls, now and forever.**

-Psalm 121, *adapted*

**\*The Gloria Patri No. 807: “Glory Be to the Father”**

MEINEKE

**\*The Prayer of Invocation**

Norman Perkins

**The Greeting**

Lesley Ratcliff

**Shape Us, O Christ, to Live and Claim**

Mark 8:34

**THE CROSS-FORMED LIFE**

Shape us, O Christ to live and claim all it means to bear your name.

Make our church one joy - ful choir on this glad and fes - tive day and by to  
Bend us low by song and prayer, low e - nough to lift the cross and to  
Lift us up by song and prayer, till the way out we deal with loss and  
Bend us, lift us, make us strong, send us with wind and fire, so our the

song take in - voke the fire that in - vites our hearts to pray:  
love's un - ac - count - ed fin - al cost.  
acts and words of care trace the pat - tern of your cross:  
world may hear the song that we of - fer as your choir.

Shape us, O Christ to live and claim all it means to bear your name.

Text: "Make Our Church One Joyful Choir" by Thomas H. Troeger, taken from *Borrowed Light*. Oxford University Press. 1994. Assigned to Oxford University Press 2010. Reproduced with permission. All Rights Reserved.

Tune: *Cross-Formed Life* by Timothy C. Coker. Majors Press. 2016.

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel                                      John 3:1-17                                      Charles Poole  
Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem                                      “Lamb of God”                                      Christiansen/Coker  
Lamb of God most holy!  
Who on the cross didst suffer,  
Patient still and lowly,  
Thyself to scorn didst offer;  
Our sins by Thee were taken,  
Or hope had us forsaken:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesus!  
Shirley Foster, *soprano*

The Sermon                                      “Concerning the Life of Faith”                                      Charles Poole

## COMMITMENT

Northminster is an open fellowship that wants to share its gift of life and ministry with others. During the Time of Response, this church extends to you an invitation to membership by your request for baptism, by letter from a sister church, or by statement of your Christian experience in another denomination. If you would like to unite with this covenant community, please express this desire by coming forward at this point of the service.

## TIME OF RESPONSE

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”  
-Hebrews 11:1

\*The Recessional Hymn No. 552 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”                                      OLIVET

\*The Benediction                                      Charles Poole

\*The Postlude                                      “Intermezzi”                                      Schroeder

*\*The congregation will please stand.*

The Lectionary passages for March 8 are found on the following pages in the Pew Bible:

Genesis 12:1-4 ~ page 8  
Psalm 121 ~ page 498  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 ~ page 916  
John 3:1-17 ~ pages 863-864

## THE DEDICATION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Elisabeth Flora Maples  
Daughter of Brock and Lora Maples  
The Litany of Dedication                                      Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: We are here today to present Betty to the church and to dedicate her to God. Who brings this child for this holy purpose?

**Parents: *We, her parents, bring this child to be dedicated to God.***

Leader: What can we affirm about this child?

**People: That she is made in the image of God and is a child of God by creation.**

Leader: What will this child be told about her faith history?

**People: She will learn about Abraham and Sarah, the grandparents of our faith; about Moses, who led our ancestors out of bondage, and about Miriam, who sang and danced a victory song of freedom; about the Jewish hope for a Messiah; about Jesus Christ the Savior, and about the history of the church as God’s redemptive people in the world.**

Leader: Who will raise this child in the faith, worship with her regularly, teach her to pray and lead her into a loving relationship with God?

**Parents: *We are the persons primarily responsible for this important work.***

Leader: Is anyone else to help with the guidance of this child?

**People: Yes, we too, will share in her growth, for she belongs to us as well.**

Leader: We trust that God will be with us in this awesome task.

**People: For God is faithful to us in all that we do.**

Leader: Amen.

The Presentation of the Child                                      Charles Poole

The Lessons                                      Genesis 12:1-4  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17                                      Major Treadway

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

O Lord, increase our faith, strengthen us and sustain us,  
In thy true faith. Endue us with wisdom, charity, love, and patience,  
In all our adversity, Dear Jesus, bless us.

-16<sup>th</sup> century prayer

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer                                      Major Treadway

## INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

\*The Offertory Hymn                                      “Shape Us, O Christ”                                      (see insert)

\*The Offertory Prayer                                      Norman Perkins

The Offertory                                      “I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ”                                      Bach

\*The Doxology                                      OLD HUNDREDTH