We went through fire and through water; yet you brought us out into a place of abundance.

-Psalm 66:12
THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Sixth Sunday of Eastertide
May 17, 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
Jesus, in the darkness of a garden alone you wept and prayed. Sweating. Bleeding, with the pain of powerlessness, with the strain of waiting. An angel offered you strength, but it was a bitter cup. For those who sweat and bleed, and weep alone, if it is not possible for their cup to be taken away, then may they know your presence kneeling at their side.

-Jan Sutch Pickard, adapted
The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers

The Prelude
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Miller

The Spoken Call to Worship
Lesley Ratcliff

*The Processional Hymn No. 43 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for, lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours thro’ him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill;
God’s truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

*The Litany of Praise
Leader: The Lord be with you;
People: And also with you.
Leader: The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring God’s people peace.
People: O bless our God and Savior, with songs that never cease.
Leader: Where once were fear and darkness, the sun begins to rise.
All: God guides the pilgrims along the paths of peace. O bless our God and Savior, with songs that never cease.

**STUDENT NEWS:**
**Sunday Nights at the (Virtual) Youth House:** we will continue to meet on Sunday nights at 5:00 pm until we are able to meet in person.

**Mystery Trip:** tentatively rescheduled for some part of July 11-17 (the week when we would have gone to Passport). More details will be forthcoming - but not too many, it is still a Mystery.

**Contact Major at:**
major@northminsterbaptist.org

We are seeking the names of those who are graduating this year from college, graduate school, law school, medical school, etc. Please call the church office, 601-982-4703, with degree and school information.

**Atrium, Girls of Grace and Guys 456**
Though Sunday night children’s activities were scheduled to end Sunday, May 3, we have decided to extend our virtual offering of these activities through May 31. On Sunday, May 31 at 5:00 pm, we will have a special Atrium Pentecost service via Zoom. Girls of Grace and Guys 456 are meeting each week via Zoom, and the Atrium lesson is being uploaded to YouTube each week. If you would like links to any of these activities, please contact Lesley at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or 601.927.0259.

**Children’s Storytime with the Pastors**
Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
Each of the Pastors will share a book and we’ll have a brief devotional thought. Email lesley@northminsterbaptist.org if you would like the Zoom link.

**MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**
Every member a minister
Every member of Northminster Baptist Church, like every disciple of Christ, is commissioned to participate in Christian ministry. The following persons have been called by this congregation to serve as enablers in such ministry:

- **Pastor**
  - Charles Poole
- **Associate Pastor for Children and Adults**
  - Lesley Ratcliff
- **Associate Pastor for Students**
  - Major Treadway
- **Minister of Music**
  - Tim Coker
- **Organist**
  - Sheila Hess
- **Organist Emeritus**
  - Billy Trotter
- **Pastors’ Secretary/Administrative Assistant**
  - Leslie Ward
- **Financial Secretary**
  - Sam South
- **Receptionist/Secretary**
  - Jan Wilson/Neely Grimsley
- **Sexton**
  - Lamenais Simeon

*The Gloria Patri No. 807: “Glory Be to the Father” MEINEKE
*The Prayer of Invocation
The Greeting
The Lessons Psalm 66:8-20
I Peter 3:13-22
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**
The Meditation of Confession
“Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak: thy power alone, this sore bondage break. Amen”
-Not What these Hands Have Done, adapted
The Worshipping Church. A Hymnal

**The Silent Prayer**
**The Assurance of Pardon**
**The Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**
The Gospel John 14:15-21
Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

**The Anthem**
“There Is a Balm in Gilead” Hayes
Maren Hrivnak, soprano

**TIME OF RESPONSE**
Because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”
-Luke 1:78-79

*The Recessional Hymn No. 78 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” ST. ANNE
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!
Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.
Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.
A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.
Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its years away, they fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home!

*The Benediction Charles Poole
*The Postlude “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Manz
*The congregation will please stand.

The Lectionary passages for May 17 are found on the following pages in the Pew Bible:

Acts 17:22-31 ~ page 902
Psalm 66:8-20, ~ pages 459-460
1 Peter 3:13-22 ~ page 985
John 14:15-21 ~ page 877

CAREGIVING CONCERNS:
CURRENT CAREGIVING CONCERNS:
Harry Vickery, 5313 Fairway Street, Jackson MS 39211, is hospitalized at Baptist.
Gloria Martin, 2101 Eastover Drive, Jackson MS 39211, is recovering after surgery.
Merle Dean, 150 Park Circle, Apt. A2, Flowood MS 39232, is recovering after surgery.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS:
Libby McGee
Pat Walston
R.W. McCarley
Virginia Hamilton
Jack Cochran
Robbie Cross
Vivian Thompson
Martha Collum
Nancy Herrin
Roxanne Aldridge
Gorman Schaffer
Sue Edwards
Martha Quarles, mother of Lori Quarles
Louise Lott, mother of Cindy Griffin
Hazel Smith, mother of Marcia Poole
Mary Hendrick, mother of Janet Clark

Remember those in military service: Bartavian Stanton and Chris Spencer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the Sixth Sunday of Eastertide. Our Easter banner, overlaying the Lenten banner, is used to celebrate the Easter season and signify the triumph of Christ’s resurrection and power over death. It is used during Eastertide, the six Sundays following Easter.

The banner bears in gold-colored silk the essential symbol of Christianity, the cross, in its rays of glory, appropriate to the Easter season. Formerly a symbol of shame, the cross has been transformed into the ultimate symbol of hope and salvation for all humankind. The seasonal color for Easter is white, and the background color of the banner can be interpreted as white fractured into many of pure white’s components. The banner’s pale colors represent the purity and divinity of Christ. In the background are the rays of glory of the cross. The rays leading from the cross remind us of a power that rises above defeat, a power that radiates forth affecting the lives it touches. Symbolically, the entire banner overlaps a banner of purple, the color for Lent. This juxtaposition reminds us of the historical connection of the two seasons: Lent and Easter, but leaves no doubt as to the successor.

The banner was designed and made by a Northminster member.

The Caregiving Committee considers it a privilege to pray for each concern that affects our church family. Recognizing the power of prayer, we meet each Monday at 8:30 a.m. in the church conference room for a brief, informal prayer-time and invite all who can to join us. If you have prayer concerns, please call the church office or a member of the Caregiving Committee.

The Deacon of the Week is Taylor Beard.
The Caregiving Chair for May is Steve Godbold.
The Caregiving Coordinator for May is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiver of the Week is Emily Smith.
The Liturgist for May is Linda McGhee.
The Flowers for May are provided by Joe D. Rankin, Mary Elizabeth Smith and Jane Claire Williams.
The Usher Captain for May is Matt Kelly.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

For the next few Wednesday evenings, Northminster will offer a virtual Bible study on Revelation. To attend/view, simply go to Northminster’s home page and click “Live Video Stream” under the “Watch Live” link. (Or type in www.northminsterbaptist.live.) From there, click “Archives” and select “Education.” Each Wednesday evening, by 5:30, you will see a new study uploaded there. (A PDF of the Wednesday night word search will be attached to an email blast, which will be sent each Wednesday.)