



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Grace: After centuries of handling and mishandling, most religious words have become so shopworn nobody's much interested anymore. Not so with grace....Grace is something you can never get but only be given. There's no way to earn it or deserve it or bring it about....A crucial eccentricity of the Christian faith is the assertion that people are saved by grace. There's nothing you have to do....There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.

—Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023
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.

The Meditation of Preparation

Although I have often abandoned you, O Lord, you have never abandoned me. Your hand of love is always outstretched towards me, even when I stubbornly look the other way. And your gentle voice constantly calls me, even when I obstinately refuse to listen.

—Teresa of Avila, Spain (1515-1582)

The Prelude “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices” Manz

The Call to Worship “O Be Joyful in the Lord” Yarrington

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Bless the Lord!

*The Processional Hymn No. 108 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” MADRID

*The Litany of Praise Doug Boone

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Whoever we are, whatever we've done, God loves us.

People: When our hands are clean, when our hands are dirty, God loves us.

All: God tells us to listen to Jesus; God offers us forgiveness and a new start.

—Ruth Burgess, *Acorns and Archangels*

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

*The Prayer of Invocation Doug Boone

The Greeting Major Treadway

The Lessons Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor for Children and Adults
Associate Pastor for Students
Minister of Music
Organist
Organist Emeritus
Office Manager
Financial Secretary
Receptionist/Secretary
Sexton

Scott Dickison
Lesley Ratcliff
Major Treadway
Tim Coker
Sheila Hess
Billy Trotter
Leslie Ward
Sam South
Jan Wilson/Neely Grimsley
Lamenais Simeon

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, September 24

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Preschool & Elementary Atrium & Four5Six
5:00 p.m. Youth, YH
5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, Adult Ed. Bldg.

Monday, September 25

8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR
10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
5:30 p.m. Finance Cmte., L/CR
5:30 p.m. Wider Net Cmte., Adult Ed. Bldg.

Tuesday, September 26

12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn, GH
3:00 p.m. Children's Birthday Gathering, GH

Wednesday, September 27

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, L/CR
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper, GH
5:30 p.m. Girls' Small Group, YH
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 1

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion
11:30 a.m. Life After High School, YH
5:00 p.m. Youth, YH
5:00 p.m. Preschool & Elementary Atrium & Four5Six
5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, Adult Ed. Bldg.

Northminster Baptist Church
3955 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
601-982-4703
www.northminsterbaptist.org

Save the Date!
Inward and Onward:
The Future of Church and Self
October 14-15, 2023

This fall you will have three opportunities at Northminster to hear from Ed Bacon, priest, speaker and author of *8 Habits of Love*.

“8 Tools for Discovering Your True Self of Love Beneath Life’s Fears”

Saturday, October 14
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

“Traits of Healthy Churches”

Sunday, October 15
Immediately following worship
Lunch will be provided.

Rev. Bacon will also offer the sermon during worship on October 15.

REGISTER HERE: <https://forms.gle/G8U4gSzfpKBjFiNe7>

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**PARENTS’ NIGHT OUT**

**Friday, October 20**  
**6:00-10:00 p.m. ~ NCC**

You can make a reservation for your children (infant-6th grade) by calling the church office, **601-982-4703**, by **Wednesday, October 18**.

Please remember to feed your children before they arrive, or provide a brown-bag supper.

**We will also have Parents’ Night Out on**  
November 10 and December 1.

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Children’s Retreat
October 21-22, 2023

Children in third through sixth grade are invited to our annual Fall Retreat.

We will leave at 8 a.m. on October 21 and return in time for worship at Northminster on October 22.

For questions or to sign up, contact Lesley Ratcliff at 601-982-4703 or lesley@northminsterbaptist.org.

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**MEALS ON WHEELS**

**Monday, September 25**

**Cooks**

Polly Watkins  
Jean Welsh  
Helen Turner

**Drivers**

Rt. 1 Kelley & Jean Williams  
Rt. 2 Zina & Steve Bass

**Monday, October 2**

**Cooks**

Jim Blackwood  
Becky Wooley  
Polly Bourne

**Drivers**

Rt. 1 Luke Dove & Bob Hardin  
Rt. 2 Kay Allen & Geri Smith

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

The Meditation of Confession

Can we trust that in the midst of all its human brokenness the Church presents the broken body of Christ to the world as food for eternal life? Can we acknowledge that where sin is abundant, grace is superabundant; and that where promises are broken over and over again, God's promise stands unshaken? To believe is to answer *yes* to the questions.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Scott Dickison

**INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION**

\*The Offertory Hymn No. 557 “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

SCOTT

\*The Offertory Prayer

Doug Boone

The Offertory

“God’s Time Is Best”

Bach

\*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise loving God, whom we adore. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

The Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“Let the Life I’ve Lived Speak for Me”

Walker

Let the life I’ve lived speak for me.  
When I come to the end of the road,  
and I lay down my heavy load,  
let the life I’ve lived speak for me.

Let the friends I’ve made speak for me.  
When I come to the end of the road,  
and I lay down my heavy load,  
let the friends I’ve made speak for me.

Lay down your burden, and rest with the setting sun.  
All the beauty of your life will shine when your day is done.  
Let the love that I’ve tried to share,  
all this life of joy and care, speak for me.

The Sermon

“For the Kingdom of Heaven is Like”

Scott Dickison

**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 an invitation to membership by 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 come forward at this point in the service.

**TIME OF RESPONSE**

By the grace of God, I am being mended, and God has called me to be a mender, too. Since many threads are stronger than one, God has put me on a sewing team. Day by day, our job is to hunt the places where the world is ripped and bend over the damage to do what we can. Every good deed, every kind word, every act of justice and compassion tugs the torn edges closer together. The truer our aim, the smaller our stitches and the longer the patch will hold. We made plenty of the rips ourselves, and some of the worst ones show evidence of having been mended many times before, but that does not seem to discourage anyone. Mending is how we continue to be mended, and we would not trade the work for anything.

—Barbara Brown Taylor, *Speaking of Sin*

\*The Recessional Hymn No. 558 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” *BEECHER*

\*The Benediction *Scott Dickison*

\*The Postlude “Toccatina in E Minor” *Pachelbel*

*\*The congregation will please stand.*

**The Lectionary passages for September 24 are found on the following pages in the pew Bible:**

- Exodus 16:2-15 ~ page 55
- Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45 ~ pages 484-485
- Jonah 3:10-4:11 ~ page 753
- Psalms 145:1-8 ~ page 506
- Philippians 1:21-30 ~ pages 953-954
- Matthew 20:1-16 ~ page 801

**LUNCH & LEARN**

Come enjoy a delicious meal and a presentation during the lunch hour!

A Visual Presentation by  
**WYATT WATERS**

Tuesday, September 26  
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.  
Great Hall

The cost will be \$10 per person. While the deadline to sign up has passed, if you would still like to attend, please email Lesley Ratcliff at [lesley@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org)

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Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, September 26
3:00-5:00 p.m.

Children who have a birthday in September are invited to stop by the Great Hall to enjoy an ice cream treat with Lesley.

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**Wednesday Night Supper, September 27**

**5:30 p.m. — Great Hall**

Come join us for a delicious meal and a brief vespers service!

- Cost: \$5 per child, \$8 per adult, \$25 per family
- Servers: Carol Ann Vest, Sandi Rhoden, Ann Calhoon, June Rankin
- Cashier: George Luter
- Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, savory green salad, french bread, assorted desserts, iced tea

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BRUMFIELD HOUSE

September 28

Jeff Wilson

October 5

Joe Sims

October 12

Kirk Sims

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**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**October 1**

**Chapel Coordinators**

Caroline & Jack Nowell

**Firecrackers**

Mary Kathryn & Bo Allen

**Sparklers**

Natalie & Cy Parks

## YOUTH NEWS

### Youth Sunday School

**Sunday mornings at 9:15-ish** in the Youth House. There will be donuts and good conversation.

### Sunday Nights at the Youth House

**Tonight at 5:00 p.m.**

Join us for a shared meal, games, lessons, prayer and fellowship.

### Girls' Small Group

**Alternating Wednesday nights at 5:30; next group meeting September 27.**

Join Sarah Reynolds in a study of *3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future* by K. Acevedo and B. Griffin.

### Life after High School

**Sunday, October 1 after Worship.**

All high school seniors are welcome to join Major for a series of discussions about practical life skills necessary for thriving after high school graduation.

### Stewpot

**Saturday, October 7 at 9:30 a.m.**

We will gather in the Great Hall kitchen, prepare a meal and serve it at Stewpot; then we will eat lunch together.

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ADULT STUDIES OPPORTUNITIES

5:30 p.m.

Adult Ed. Building

Funerals 101

Today and October 1

Tonight, we will talk about why we do funerals the way we do funerals at Northminster. Next week, you will have opportunity to think about what is important to you for your funeral service and to record that information in a funeral form to ensure it is available to your family after your death.

Let's plan ahead but not put a date on the calendar!

**Deep Calls Out to Deep:
The Poetry of Scripture**

October 8, 22 and 29

It is no coincidence that the language of God in scripture is most often written in poetry and not prose. This subtle shift in form opens our imaginations to infinite possibilities of inference, reflection, and depth. Over these three weeks, Scott will lead us as we consider the use of poetry in scripture, and pair scripture with contemporary poems to explore the ways in which these extra-biblical voices can enhance and enrich our experience of the gospel.

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**Pastoral Care Number**

To alert the ministers of a pastoral care need, please call 601-980-1002.

**Pastor on Call**

Weekends and Monday: Rotating  
Tuesday: Scott  
Wednesday: Lesley  
Thursday: Scott  
Friday: Major

## CAREGIVING CONCERNS

**CARE CARDS** may be found in the pew racks, if you would like to write anyone. Place your cards in the offering plate. Cards will be mailed from the church office on Monday morning.

### CURRENT CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Steve Chester is under hospice care in Yazoo City.

### ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

|                  |                 |                   |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Gorman Schaffer  | Sue Edwards     | Virginia Hamilton |
| Roxanne Aldridge | R.W. McCarley   | Libby McGee       |
| Carolyn Aden     | Vivian Thompson | Michael Grantham  |
| Robbie Cross     | Tom Starling    |                   |

Louise Phillips, mother of Cindy Griffin  
Martha Quarles, mother of Lori Quarles

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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today is the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost.** The Season after Pentecost celebrates the existence of the church and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world. The liturgical color is green, symbolic of the church's growth and mission. The Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9, Revelation 22:1-2), which rises above the baptistry and is woven into our paraments, underscores this liturgical season's emphasis on the living, growing Kingdom of God.

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The Deacon of the Week is Cheryl Allen.
The Caregiving Chair for September is Sunny Fowler.
The Caregiving Coordinator for September is Susan O'Mara.
The Caregiving Chair for October is Janice Joyner.
The Caregiving Coordinator for October is Janice Joyner.
The Caregivers of the Week are Judy Jernigan and Amanda Milam.
The Liturgist for September is Gray Jackson.
The Liturgist for October is Mark Wiggs.
The Flowers for September are provided by Lisa Kelly and Kandy Sims.
The Flowers for October are provided by Lisa Kelly, Kandy Sims and John Tingle.
The Usher Captains for September are Nancy Smith, Matt Kelly and Dawn Warrington.
The Usher Captain for October is Eddie Mahaffey.

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**Preschool Atrium, Elementary Atrium  
and Four5Six today at 5:00 p.m.**

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"Our Sanctuary carpet and brick flooring have recently been professionally cleaned (including the balcony) and we ask that everyone help us maintain these spaces by disposing of any beverages prior to entering these sacred spaces."