

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

A mirror receives and reflects back what is seen.
It does not judge, adjust, or write commentary.

We are the ones who do that.

A mirror simply reveals.

And invites responsibility.

A mirror, the sun, and God are all the same.

They are all there, fully shining forth.

Their very nature is light, love, and infinite giving.

You can't offend them.

You can only choose to stop receiving and enjoying.

As soon as you look, you will see they are there!

And fully radiating.

And always have been.

—Richard Rohr, *The Divine Mirror*

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 October 8, 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

[W]hen you first begin to undertake contemplation, all that you find is a darkness, a sort of cloud of unknowing. . . . This darkness and cloud is always between you and your God, no matter what you do, and it prevents you from seeing God clearly by the light of understanding and from experiencing God in the sweetness of love in your affection. So set yourself to rest in this darkness as long as you can, always crying out after God whom you love. For if you are to experience God or see God at all, insofar as it is possible here, it must always be in this cloud and in this darkness.

—*The Cloud of Unknowing* (ca. 1350)

The Prelude	“Arise, My Soul, Arise!”	Burkhardt
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. 20 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” *ODE TO JOY*
 *The Litany of Praise Amy Finkelberg

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

People: Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

People: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

Leader: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

—Psalm 19:1-4, 7-8, 11, 14

*The Gloria Patri No. 807 “Glory Be to the Father” *MEINEKE*
 *The Prayer of Invocation Amy Finkelberg

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	Scott Dickison
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
Office Manager	Leslie Ward
Financial Secretary	Sam South
Receptionist/Secretary	Jan Wilson/Neely Grimsley
Sexton	Lamenais Simeon

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, October 8

8:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
11:30 a.m.	Life After High School, YH

Monday, October 9

8:30 a.m.	Caregiving, L/CR
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Wednesday, October 11

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

Saturday, October 14

9:00 a.m.	Inward and Onward with Ed Bacon, GH
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Sunday, October 15

8:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
11:30 a.m.	Inward and Onward with Ed Bacon, GH
11:30 a.m.	Life After High School, YH
5:00 p.m.	Youth, YH
5:30 p.m.	Adult Studies, GH

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

**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.

Please use the QR code below to register or call the church office at 601-982-4703.



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**MEALS ON WHEELS  
Wednesday, October 18**

**Cooks**

Judy Rankin  
Sara Hays  
Missy Caver

**Drivers**

Rt. 1 Suzan & Tommy Thames  
Rt. 2 Rob Hill & Ryan McElveen

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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 8:00 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](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org)**

The Greeting

Major Treadway

The Lessons

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Philippians 3:4b-14

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

The Meditation of Confession

And if we by our blindness and our wretchedness any time fall, we should readily rise, knowing the sweet touching of grace, and with all our will amend us...and go forthwith to God in love; and neither on the one side, fall over low, inclining to despair, nor on the other side, be over-reckless, as if we made no matter of it; but nakedly acknowledge our feebleness,...and reverently cleave to God, on God only trusting.

...

By contrition we are made clean, by compassion we are made ready, and by true longing toward God we are made worthy.

—Juliana of Norwich

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Lesley Ratcliff

**INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION**

\*The Offertory Hymn No. 580 “Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult” *PLEADING SAVIOR*

\*The Offertory Prayer Amy Finkelberg

The Offertory “All Glory Be to God on High” Manz

\*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 21:33-46

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“The Heavens Are Telling”

Haydn

Shirley Foster, *soprano*  
Farrar Strum, *tenor*  
Jack Edwards, *bass*

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
The wonder of His work displays the firmament.

**Trio:**

*Today that is coming speaks it the day,  
The night that is gone to following night,  
The night that is gone to following night.*

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
The wonder of His work displays the firmament.

**Trio:**

*In all the lands resounds the word,  
Never unperceived, ever understood,  
Ever, ever, ever understood.*

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
The wonder of His work displays the firmament.

The Sermon

“The Fruits of the Kingdom”

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**

Moses’ vision of God began with light; afterwards God spoke to him in a cloud.  
But when Moses rose higher and became more perfect, he saw God in the darkness.

—Gregory of Nyssa, *The Life of Moses*

\*The Recessional Hymn No. 689 “The Church’s One Foundation”

AURELIA

\*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

\*The Postlude

“The Heavens Declare”

Marcelo

*\*The congregation will please stand.*

**The Lectionary passages for October 8 are found on the following pages in the pew Bible:**

- Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 ~ page 58
- Psalm 19 ~ page 433
- Isaiah 5:1-7 ~ page 552
- Psalm 80:7-15 ~ page 471
- Philippians 3:4b-14 ~ pages 954-955
- Matthew 21:33-46 ~ page 803

**Wednesday Night Supper, October 11**

**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: Sandi Rhoden, Gloria Montgomery,  
June Rankin, Ann Calhoon

Cashier: George Luter

Menu: Chili, savory green salad, cornbread, assorted pies, iced tea

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Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, October 17

3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

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**LUNCH & LEARN**

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

**(HOLY) GHOST STORIES WITH SCOTT DICKISON**

It could be argued that mystery is at the heart of faith. And yet, as the Southern fiction writer Flannery O’Conner has said, “Mystery is the embarrassment of the modern mind.” How do we resolve this tension between mystery and a modern, rational understanding of the universe? Is there a tension? We’ll explore these questions and more on All Hallow’s Eve, and ask how a richer understanding of “spirituality” might help make room for the unexplainable in our faith.

Tuesday, October 31

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Great Hall

The cost will be \$10 per person. Please RSVP by October 27 by calling the church office or emailing [lesley@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org)

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BRUMFIELD HOUSE

October 12

Kirk Sims

October 19

Holly Wiggs

October 26

Josh Poole

November 2

Kirk Sims

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Sunday School

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

Life after High School

Today 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.

Sunday Nights at the Youth House

We will not meet tonight. Join us next Sunday at 5:00 p.m. for a shared meal, games, lessons, prayer and fellowship.

Breakfast Club

October Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast for students before school. We'll gather at 7:00 a.m. and finish in time for folks to get to school. Please let Major know in advance if you would like to come and need a ride to school.

October 10: Chick-fil-A on Highland Colony

October 17: Primos on Lakeland

October 24: Epic Donuts at Gluckstadt

Girls' Small Group

Alternating Wednesday nights at 5:30; next group meeting October 11.

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

Fall Retreat

Saturday, October 21—Sunday, October 22 at Camp Bratton-Green in Canton.

We will leave from the church at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and return by 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

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## **ADULT STUDIES OPPORTUNITIES**

5:30 p.m.

Great Hall

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

October 22 and 29

(Please note we are not meeting tonight as previously announced.)

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 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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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

October 15

Firecrackers

Mary Kathryn & Bo Allen


Sparklers

Lorraine & Smith Boykin

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

 Northminster is saddened by the death of Margaret Phillips, a charter member of Northminster since 1967. Christian sympathy is extended to all of Margaret's family and friends.

Roger Paynter is hospitalized in Austin, TX.

Steve Chester is under hospice care in Yazoo City.

George Puckett is recovering after surgery.

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

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 Nineteenth 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 Deacons of the Week are Skipper Jernigan and Susan O'Mara.

The Caregiving Chair for October is Janice Joyner.

The Caregiving Coordinator for October is Janice Joyner.

The Caregiver of the Week is Carolyn McIntyre.

The Liturgist for October is Mark Wiggs.

The Flowers for October are provided by Lisa Kelly, Kandy Sims and John Tingle.

The Usher Captain for October is Eddie Mahaffey.

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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.

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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