

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

There is no pit so deep that
God's love is not deeper still.

—Corrie ten Boom

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 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

Love seeketh not itself to please,
Nor for itself hath any care,
But for another gives its ease,
And builds a Heaven in Hell's despair.
—William Blake

The Prelude "O Hail This Brightest Day of Days" Bach

The Call to Worship "Advent Message" How

Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord, quickly come!
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:
Prepare ye the way of the Lord;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
Come, Lord Jesus, O come quickly. Amen.

*The Advent Banner Ann Arrington Long

*The Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Love Sybil Frame

*The Processional Hymn No. 157 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" *INDULCI JUBILO*

*The Litany of Praise Joe D. Rankin

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We will sing of the Lord's great love forever.

People: With our mouths we will make God's faithfulness known through all generations.

Leader: We will declare that God's love stands firm forever.

People: We will declare that God's faithfulness is established in heaven itself.

Leader: God made a covenant with us, swearing to David, the Lord's servant.

People: God will establish David's line forever, making David's throne firm through all generations.

All: Thanks be to God.

—Psalm 89, NIV, *adapted*

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

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

*The Prayer of Invocation Joe D. Rankin

POINSETTIAS

Lovingly given by

Gayla and John Purvis in honor of Anna, Andy, Sybil and Davis Frame
Grateful members in honor of our Pastors
Grateful members in honor of our Support Staff
David and Cheryl Allen in honor of Courtney, Josh and Kennedy Crump,
Camille, Drew and Jeb Snyder

Gray Jackson III in honor of Carolyn Aden
Gray Jackson III and Dabbs Massey in honor of Gerry and Ann Lauman
Gray Jackson III and Dabbs Massey in honor of Bill and Suzanne Boone
Gray Jackson III in honor of Tim Coker
Gray Jackson III in honor of Kelley and Jean Williams
The John Wakeland family in honor of Edwin and Virginia Pittman
M'lee Williams in honor of Kelley Williams, Jr.
M'lee and Kelley Williams in honor of Jake, Zach, Anna Kate
and Luke Williams

Becky and Tim Frame in honor of Gayla and John Purvis
Becky and Tim Frame in honor of Anna, Andy, Sybil and Davis Frame
Lee and Kathryn Sams in honor of Bryan, Iva Kathryn and Helen Sams
Lee and Kathryn Sams in honor of Farren and Lawson Sams
Lee and Kathryn Sams in honor of James, Cooper and Elsie Weyrens
Dawn Warrington in honor of Cy and Natalie Parks
Dawn Warrington in honor of John Clay and Cerissa Ashford
Dawn Warrington in honor of her grandchildren, Kaylee, Jordan, Stetson
and Sellars

Becky and Guy Parker in honor of Judy and Guy Parker
Becky and Guy Parker in honor of Anne and Bob Blackmon
Becky and Guy Parker in honor of Mary Lynn and Julia Parker
Jim Blackwood in honor of Larkin Branch
Jim Blackwood in honor of Peggy Brady
Mike and Tonia Peters in honor of Mitch, Ceejaye, Anna Mitchell, Elizabeth
and Eleanor Peters
Mike and Tonia Peters in honor of Sam, Courtney, Savannah, Marshall and
Milton Peters
Mike and Tonia Peters in honor of Chase, Haley and Wilder McMullan
Diane McGowan in honor of John David McGowan
Pryor and Robert Lampton in honor of Ada Gwin Pryor Buford
Shari Culver in honor of the Mike Peters and Kelley Williams Sunday School Class

Walter Fountain in memory of Jackie Meena
 Randall and Brenda Smith in memory of Merle and Lawrence Crumpton
 and Sandra Gayle Crumpton
 Randall and Brenda Smith in memory of Felicita R. Smith and Jason L. Smith
 Randall and Brenda Smith in memory of Louis E. and Dorothy D. Smith
 Luke Dove and Chris Dove in memory of Marlane C. Dove
 Bill Lee in memory of Tommie Lee
 Bill Lee in memory of Bill Lee, Sr.
 Dr. William (Bill) and Sheila Nicholas in memory of Jack Geary
 Dr. William (Bill) and Sheila Nicholas in memory of Jack Cochran
 Dr. William (Bill) Nicholas and Sheila in memory of Howard McMillan
 Carolyn and John McIntyre in memory of W.R. and Elizabeth Newman
 Carolyn and John McIntyre in memory of Anne Black and John McIntyre
 Jim Blackwood in memory of Jack Root
 Jim Blackwood in memory of J.W. Magee
 Jim Blackwood in memory of Betty and Jim Blackwood
 John and Janet Clark in memory of Marlane Chill Dove
 John and Janet Clark in memory of Dorothy Ferrell Polen
 John and Janet Clark in memory of Jim Hendrick
 John and Janet Clark in memory of Mary Hendrick
 John and Janet Clark in memory of John S. Clark
 John and Janet Clark in memory of Mamie Clark
 John and Janet Clark in memory of Ethan Clark
 Mike and Tonia Peters in memory of Anne Peters
 Mike and Tonia Peters in memory of Taylor McMullan Williams
 Diane McGowan in memory of John W. McGowan
 Pryor and Robert Lampton in memory of Dorothy Lee Lampton
 Pryor and Robert Lampton in memory of Leslie B. Lampton
 Pryor and Robert Lampton in memory of T.C. Buford
 Pryor and Robert Lampton in memory of Minnie Lee Pryor
 Pryor and Robert Lampton in memory of Edward Atkinson Pryor
 Pryor and Robert Lampton in memory of Melinda Wilkinson
 Pryor and Robert Lampton in memory of Louis Wilkinson, Jr.
 The Bass Family in memory of Mary Rowland, Kelly and David Bass
 The Bass Family in memory of Robert Bowman
 Cindy Brunson in memory of Karen Gilfoy
 Cindy Brunson in memory of Bill and Mickey Brunson
 Shari Culver in memory of JW Magee
 Shari Culver in memory of Howard McMillan
 Phillip Blount in memory of Ron Fender
 The Wooley family in memory of O.B. and Easie Wooley

The Greeting Major Treadway

The Lessons II Samuel 7:1-11
 Romans 16:25-27

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Had Mary been filled with reason, there'd have been no room for the child.

—Madeleine L'Engle

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Lesley Ratcliff

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
 for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever.
 Amen.**

INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

*The Offertory Hymn No. 167 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

PICARDY

*The Offertory Prayer

Joe D. Rankin

The Offertory

"Silent Night"

Pethel

*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

Luke 1:26-38

Major Treadway

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

"Still, Still, Still"

Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.
 For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
 Holy Star its vigil keeping.

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

The night is peaceful all around you;

Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

While guardian angels without number

Watch you as you sweetly slumber.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

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

I'm ever and always a stranger to grace. I need this annual angel visitation...to know the virgin conceives and God is with us.

—Eugene H. Peterson

*The Recessional Hymn No. 155 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *ST. LOUIS*

*The Benediction Scott Dickison

*The Postlude “Swiss Noel” Daquin

**The congregation will please stand.*

The Lectionary passages December 24 are found on the following pages in the pew Bible:

II Samuel 7:1-11, 16 ~ page 245

Luke 1:46b-55 ~ page 832

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26 ~ page 475

Romans 16:25-27 ~ page 926

Luke 1:26-38 ~ page 831

The rose on the altar is placed there in honor of the birth of Kaizen KaSawyer Charleston, son of Latisha Charleston.

David and Sunny Fowler, Daron and Jan Wilson, Zac and Tori Thompson in memory of Ann and Mac McDonnieal

Nicky and Diane Drake in memory of Margie and Noble Brooks

Nicky and Diane Drake in memory of Lois and Woodrow Drake

Anne Brawley in memory of Steve Chester

Anne Brawley in memory of Virgil Brawley

Monica and Rose Daniels in memory of Callie Amanda Ivy Daniels-Bryant

Ann and Rick Calhoon in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Chesley Pruet

Ann and Rick Calhoon in memory of Mr. and Mrs. O.J. Calhoon

Cindy and Jeff Wilson and Beth Peterson in memory of Inez and

Dudley Wilson

Cindy and Jeff Wilson and Beth Peterson in memory of Frances Wilson Lester

Cindy and Jeff Wilson in memory of Dorothy and Kinton Polk

Gayla and John Purvis in memory of George and Jan Purvis

Gayla and John Purvis in memory of Richard and Ruth Ballard

Mary Elizabeth Smith in memory of Dr. J. George Smith

Mary Elizabeth Smith in memory of Pat Welsh

Mary Elizabeth Smith in memory of (Bru) Julius Ridgway

Amanda and Sherry Milam in memory of Dr. John B. Milam

Amanda and Sherry Milam in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Edwards

Amanda and Sherry Milam in memory of Dr. and Mrs. John T. Milam

Amanda and Sherry Milam in memory of Lynn Milam Granberry

Sherry Holland Rula and Sara Holland Cox in memory of Sara Holland

Sherry Holland Rula and Sara Holland Cox in memory of John Holland

Sherry Holland Rula and Sara Holland Cox in memory of Skipper Holland

Sherry Holland Rula and Sara Holland Cox in memory of Mark Holland

By her family in memory of Dianne Kay Metzner

By their families in memory of Leona and Walter Huedepohl

By their families in memory of Berniece and Curt Metzner

Billy and Annette Trotter in memory of Tom and Maurice Gregory

Billy and Annette Trotter in memory of Rosemary Harrison

David and Cheryl Allen in memory of Bill DuBard

David and Cheryl Allen in memory of Neville and Hettie Allen

David and Cheryl Allen in memory of John Allen

Gray Jackson III and Dabbs, Jeffery, Logan, Dylan, Sterling and

Rhodes Massey in memory of Gray and Eda Jackson

Gray Jackson III in memory of Elizabeth Hogue Marsh

George Smith, Stephen Smith, Jennifer Rymer and Sarah Newcomb in memory of Emily Lewis Smith

George Smith, Stephen Smith, Jennifer Rymer and Sarah Newcomb in memory of Bill Card

Bo and Polly Bourne in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lee

The John Wakeland family in memory of Barbara Pittman and

Edwin Lloyd Pittman, Jr.

Lori Quarles in memory of John Quarles

Joan Haynie in memory of Mary Evelyn and Thomas Patton

Joan Haynie in memory of Fred A. Powell

Justin Beard and family in memory of J. L. Beard

Carol Taff in memory of Guy Cavett Taff

Jo Ann Welch in memory of Scotty Welch

Walter Fountain in memory of Kathy Meena Fountain

Walter Fountain in memory of Dr. Albert Meena

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, December 24

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
4:30 p.m. Living Nativity Practice, GH
5:00 p.m. Pre-Service Music
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25

Church office is closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church office is closed

Wednesday, December 27

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 31

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Treadway Reception, GH
6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Meditation, Sanctuary

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

Annunciation

By Denise Levertov

We know the scene: the room, variously furnished,
almost always a lectern, a book; always
the tall lily.

Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings,
the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering,
whom she acknowledges, a guest.
But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions
courage.

The engendering Spirit
did not enter her without consent.

God waited.

She was free
to accept or to refuse, choice
integral to humanness.

Aren't there annunciations
of one sort or another
in most lives?

Some unwillingly
undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride,
uncomprehending.

More often
those moments
when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from
in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair
and with relief.
Ordinary lives continue.

God does not smite them.

But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

She had been a child who played, ate, slept
like any other child – but unlike others,
wept only for pity, laughed
in joy not triumph.
Compassion and intelligence
fused in her, indivisible.
Called to a destiny more momentous
than any in all of Time,
she did not quail,

only asked
a simple, 'How can this be?'
and gravely, courteously,
took to heart the angel's reply,
perceiving instantly
the astounding ministry she was offered:

to bear in her womb
Infinite weight and lightness; to carry
in hidden, finite inwardness,
nine months of Eternity; to contain
in slender vase of being,
the sum of power –
in narrow flesh,
the sum of light.

Then bring to birth,
push out into air, a Man-child
needing, like any other,
milk and love –
but who was God.
This was the moment no one speaks of,
when she could still refuse.
A breath unbreathed,
Spirit,
suspended,
waiting.

She did not cry, ‘I cannot. I am not worthy,’
Nor, ‘I have not the strength.’
She did not submit with gritted teeth,
raging, coerced.

Bravest of all humans,
consent illumined her.
The room filled with its light,
the lily glowed in it,
and the iridescent wings.
Consent,
courage unparalleled,
opened her utterly.

THE LIVING NATIVITY

Today, all Living Nativity participants will need to gather in the Great Hall no later than 4:30 p.m. We will put on costumes, and have a final practice. Our rehearsal time is short. The costumers will be ready at 4:00 so please consider bringing your children early. The pre-service music, a portion of which is the Living Nativity, begins at 5:00. The nursery will be open at 4:00.

We look forward to our children leading us in worship on Christmas Eve!

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All are invited to a reception celebrating

## THE TREADWAYS

Sunday, December 31  
immediately following worship  
in the Great Hall

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Save the Date: Installation Service for Scott Dickison

Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Reception to follow in the Great Hall

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## Worship at Northminster

Northminster continues to be a welcoming space for members, friends, and guests. The Worship and Music Committee has discussed ways to be more inclusive and hospitable to those who are new to our worship service. As a result, the words to the “Gloria Patri” and “The Lord’s Prayer” will be included in our worship bulletin. Since our service begins in silence as we enter the sanctuary, we hope that all will extend a hand, share a smile, or offer a word of welcome to our guests following the service.

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Northminster Essentials

Sunday, January 21 through Sunday, March 3
9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Library (room opposite the main office)

If you are seeking to better understand the history and practices of the family of faith called Northminster, whether you are a friend of the church, a prospective or new member wanting to become more involved in the life of the church, or a long-time member wanting to expand your knowledge of Northminster, this is the course for you.

For questions or to sign up, please call the church office at 601-982-4703 or email Lesley at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Sunday School

We will not meet December 31. Join us January 7 around 9:15 a.m. There will be donuts and good conversation.

Twelfth-Night Fire Pit

Sunday, January 7, 5:00 p.m. Join us outside the youth house as we roast marshmallows and bring Epiphany to a close. Bring greenery from home to add to the fire!

Stewpot

Saturday, February 4 at 9:30 a.m. We will gather in the Great Hall kitchen and prepare a meal to be served at Stewpot, then we will eat lunch together.

Youth Sunday/Dessert Auction

February 11. Youth lead worship and teach Sunday school, followed by a church-wide luncheon and dessert auction to raise money for youth trips and activities.

Spring Break Beach Retreat

March 11-14. Somewhere at or near Orange Beach. More details to come.

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**BRUMFIELD HOUSE**

**December 28**

Jeff Wilson

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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 31

Firecrackers

Anna & Andy Frame

Sparklers

Emileigh & Brennan Williams

~~~~~  
Parents of 6th graders are invited to attend the

**Mentor Parents' Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

in the Library

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SAVE THE DATE!

Northminster Women's Retreat 2024

Friday, February 16 – Sunday, February 18

Eagle Ridge Conference Center

Raymond, MS

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**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**

**Friday, January 19**

**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, January 17.

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

## 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 Harold Caver, a member of Northminster since 2006. Christian sympathy is extended to Doug, Missy, Stone and J.W. Caver, and all of Harold's family and friends.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Latisha Charleston on the birth of her son, Kaizen KaSawyer Charleston. Kaizen is also welcomed by his sister Kamyiah Lee.

Carla Holt is recovering at the Sienna at St. Catherine's.

### ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer

Sue Edwards

Virginia Hamilton

Roxanne Aldridge

R.W. McCarley

Libby McGee

Carolyn Aden

Mary Lou Jernigan

Robbie Cross

Tom Starling

Roger Paynter

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent**, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. The color purple reflects the Advent themes of confession and repentance as we "prepare the way of the Lord."

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The Deacon of the Week is Holly Wiggs.

The Caregiving Chair for December is Annette Hitt.

The Caregiving Coordinators for December are Annette Hitt, Janice Joyner, Sarah Reynolds and Sunny Fowler.

The Caregiving Chair for January is Annette Hitt.

The Caregiving Coordinators for January are Faye Barham and Susie Friou.

The Caregiver of the Week is Annette Hitt.

The Liturgist for December is Amanda Milam.

The Liturgist for January is Richard Joiner.

The Flowers for December are provided by Lisa Kelly and Kandy Sims.

The Flowers for January are provided by Jennifer Stribling, Becky Frame and Kandy Sims.

The Usher Captain for December is Keith Davis.

The Usher Captain for January is Dawn Warrington.

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**Christmas Eve**

Candlelight Communion Service tonight at 5:30 p.m.

Pre-service music begins at 5:00 p.m.

Childcare will be available beginning at 4:00 p.m.

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The church office will be closed Monday, December 25,

Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1.

For pastoral care needs, please call 601-980-1002.

Caregivers will meet Tuesday, January 2.