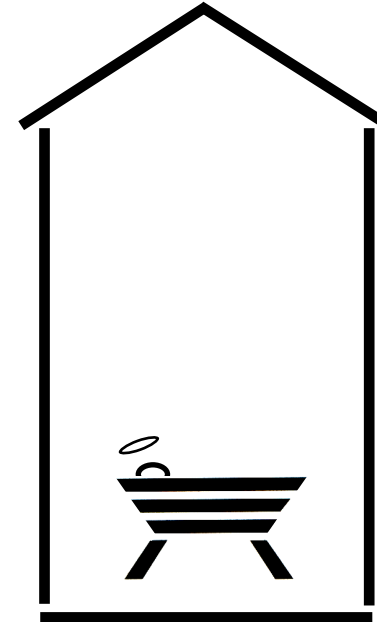
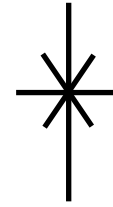


**MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**  
**Every member a minister**

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/Custodian

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



**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

Northminster Baptist Church  
3955 Ridgewood Road  
Jackson, MS 39211  
601-982-4703  
[www.northminsterbaptist.org](http://www.northminsterbaptist.org)

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

## CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

December 24, 2023

Pre-service Music      Five o'clock  
Service                      Five-thirty o'clock

### LIGHT COMING INTO DARKNESS

#### The Meditation of Preparation

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and God's glory shall be upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

—Isaiah 60:1-3

“In the Bleak Midwinter”                      Callahan  
Lucy Elfert, *soprano*

“Sweet Was the Song the Virgin Sang”                      Larkin  
Marlow and Mary Alden Ratcliff, *trebles*

“Virgin's Slumber Song”                      Reger  
Pam Steadman, *soprano*

Live Nativity  
The Children of Northminster  
Carrie Blount and Lisa Strum, *directors*

“I Wonder As I Wander”                      Niles  
Cheryl Coker, *soprano*  
Steve Cook, *dulcimer*

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”                      Manz  
Sheila Hess, *organ*

“Gesù Bambino”                      Yon  
Shirley Foster, *soprano*  
J J Coker, *tenor*

“The Christ Child's Lullaby”                      Scottish Gaelic Carol  
Steve Cook, *bagpipes*

The Witness of Scripture                      Isaiah 9:2-6                      Major Treadway

\*The Processional Hymn                      “O Come, All Ye Faithful”                      *ADESTE FIDELES*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain*

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

True God of true God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

*Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!”

*Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

## SHARING THE LIGHT

#### The Passing of the Light

*The Pastors and Deacon Chair will first light their candles from the Christ candle in the Advent wreath, and then will pass the light to the end person on each row. As you pass the light say:*

The peace of Christ be with you.

*and each in response*

And also with you.

The Carol of Meditation                      “Silent Night! Holy Night!”                      *STILLE NACHT*

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and Child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

The Triumph of the Light                      John 1:4-5                      Major Treadway

\*The Pealing of the Bells

***\*The congregation will please stand.***

*As you go, please take your candle, cup and order  
of worship to the receptacles in the Narthex.  
Thank you!*

## THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Call to the Table

Scott Dickison

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: O God, at this blessed Christmas Feast we give You thanks and praise.

**People: You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You made us in your image; and though we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory, You loved the world so much You gave Your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior.**

Pastor: As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so from suffering and death You raised him to bring us life.

Therefore, with the angels who sang glory to You in the highest and peace to Your people on earth, with Your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise, saying:

**People: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. As Your Word became flesh, born of woman, on the night long ago, so on the night he offered himself up for us he took bread, and having blessed it, he broke it and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, and having given thanks, he gave it to his disciples, and said, "This cup is a sign of the covenant of my blood poured out for many. Take, drink. Do this in remembrance of me."

**People: By Your grace, may we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for You and be welcomed at Your feast in the day to come, where all creation worships you.**

Pastor: Bind us now together through Your Holy Spirit, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this cup, we may give ourselves afresh to the task of remembering Christ; be one body in him, cleansed by his blood; faithfully serve him in the world; and look forward to his coming in final victory.

**All: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen**

*The congregation will remain seated to receive the bread and cup of communion. Once everyone has been served the bread, we will all eat. Once everyone has been served the cup, we will all drink.*

\*The Christmas Banner

Amelia Champion

\*The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Ann Mabry Hendrix

*We light this candle as a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World. O God, may we hear and rejoice in the Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, a light no darkness can extinguish.*

\*The Litany of Joy

Thomas Elfert

Leader: The Lord be with you;

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.**

Leader: Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.

**People: Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and Christ, and our Lord shall reign for ever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.**

The Children's Time

Luke 2:1-20

Lesley Ratcliff

\*The Hymn

"Away in a Manger"

*AWAY IN A MANGER*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

The Christmas Prayer

Scott Dickison

\*The Hymn

"The First Noel"

*THE FIRST NOEL*

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain*  
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,*  
*born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*