



## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

We are so familiar with the Parable of the Prodigal Son that we forget part of the message, and that is the response of the elder brother. As I read and reread Scripture it seems evident that God is far more loving than we are, and far more forgiving. We do not want God to forgive our enemies, but Scripture teaches us that all God wants is for us to repent, to say, “I’m sorry, God. Forgive me,” as the Prodigal Son does when he *comes to himself* and recognizes the extent of his folly and wrongdoing. And the father rejoices in his return.

Then there’s the elder brother. We don’t like to recognize ourselves in the elder brother who goes off and sulks because the father, so delighted at the return of the younger brother, prepares a great feast. Punishment? A party! Because the younger brother has learned the lesson he has, in a sense, already punished himself. But, like the elder brother, we’re apt to think the father much too lenient.

—Madeleine L’Engle, *Glimpses of Grace*

**THE ACT OF WORSHIP**  
**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

April 28, 2024  
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, please enjoy a time of fellowship with those around you.

The Prelude "Now Thank We All Our God" Karg-Elert

The Meditation of Preparation

In my hospital bed I was homesick. Here it was August, but I found myself thinking of Holy Week. Lonely week. The most painful part of the story. Jesus, at the end of his earthly mission, facing failure, abandonment, death.

What kept him going? What keeps us going when we're in the middle of the worst of it? The knowledge that we are loved by our Creator.

—Madeleine L'Engle, *Glimpses of Grace*

Call to Worship "Christ the Lord Hath Risen" Parker/Coker

Christ the Lord hath risen / From his three-day prison.  
Meet it is to make merrie, / Jesus will our solace be. Alleluia.  
Christ our victor Giant / Quells the foe defiant:  
Let the ransomed people sing, / Glory to the Easter King. Alleluia.

\*The Procession of the Easter Banner Adella Quinn

\*The Processional Hymn No. 70 "God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him" *HYMN TO JOY*

\*The Litany of Praise Mike Peters

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Planted in love by God and nourished by the life-giving vine that is Christ,

**People: Our lives in this world can be fruitful.**

Leader: Fruitfulness is the sign that we are being fed by Christ and not some other. The vine will bear for its planter.

**People: But will the branch that we represent be pruned or burned?**

Leader: It is not for us to be the Source of life.

**People: It is our task to be the channel,**

**All: The willing vehicle of God's bounty for all peoples!**

—James T. Fatzinger, *Touch Holiness*

\*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 Mike Peters

**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
Interim Youth Coordinator	Dabbs Massey
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, April 28**

8:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion
9:00 a.m.	Mentor Program, L/CR
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service/Senior Recognition
11:30 a.m.	Senior Recognition Luncheon
5:00 p.m.	Preschool and Elementary Atrium and Four5Six
5:00 p.m.	Youth, YH
5:30 p.m.	Liturgy of the Light, Sanctuary

**Monday, April 29**

8:30 a.m. Caregiving

**Wednesday, May 1**

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study, L/CR  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, May 5**

9:00 a.m.	Mentor Program, L/CR
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service/Communion
11:30 p.m.	Anniversary Potluck Luncheon, GH
5:00 p.m.	Preschool and Elementary Atrium and Four5Six
5:00 p.m.	Youth, YH

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

# CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY GATHERING

Tuesday, May 7

3:00-5:00 p.m.

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



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**WILL NOT MEET  
MAY 26!**



**The last Preschool and  
Elementary Atrium, and  
SN456 until fall will be  
Sunday, May 5 at 5:00 p.m.**



## Summer Sunday School for Children

Begins June 2 from 9:15 to 10:15

Meet us in room 106 where we'll divide into groups for stories, games, bible skills and crafts!

We hope your children will join us!



**NORTHMINSTER BIBLE CAMP**

# INSIDE OUT

**July 19th-21st**  
 FRIDAY 5:30-8 PM  
 SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM  
 SUNDAY 9AM - 11:30 AM

**QUESTIONS?**  
 Contact Sandra Triplett  
 sandratriplett23@gmail.com  
 601.278.3817

Register Here!

To guarantee a t-shirt, please register by June 15.

The Greeting

Jill Buckley

The Recognition of High School Seniors

### 2024 Northminster Graduates

Chi Chi Carson	Kennedy Cleveland	Mason Deas
Turner Denton	Susanna Everett	Luke Fender
Thomas Greener	Dylan Massey	Katy Mayhan
Natalie Pace	Julia Parker	Mallie Thomas
Walker Van Meter	George Watson	

The Lessons

Psalm 22:25-31  
I John 4:7-21

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Gracious God, Dresser of Vines, we confess that we have been more willing to consume the fruits of others than to bear fruit ourselves. We have refused to give of ourselves when the harvest is uncertain. We have not been fruitful because we depended too much on ourselves and not enough on you. Help us, God, to be channels for your grace, branches who feed on your life-giving Spirit, bearers of your word of love and joy, in Jesus Christ.

—James T. Fatzinger, *Touch Holiness*

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Scott Dickison

**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. 607 "Immortal Love, Forever Full"

AZMON

\*The Offertory Prayer

Mike Peters

The Offertory

"Our Father In Heaven"

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                                  John 15:1-8                                  Jill Buckley  
 Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem                                  “God Is Love”                                  Beethoven  
 Let every tribe and nation, to Thee in endless praise  
 Their voices raise, O Master of creation!  
 That God is love let all proclaim with jubilation,  
 Yea, let ev’ry nation sing praise,  
 Yea ev’ry tribe and ev’ry nation shall raise their hearts and their voices,  
 to Thee in endless praise!  
 Praise God!  
 Proclaim aloud that God is love.

The Sermon                                  “Growing In Love”                                  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**

How can we choose love when we have experienced so little of it? We choose love by taking small steps of love every time there is an opportunity. A smile, a handshake, a word of encouragement, a phone call, a card, an embrace, a kind greeting, a gesture of support, a moment of attention, a helping hand, a present, a financial contribution, a visit – all these are little steps toward love.

Each step is like a candle burning in the night. It does not take the darkness away, but it guides us through the darkness.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

\*The Recessional Hymn No. 563 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”  
*I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN*

\*The Benediction                                  Scott Dickison

\*The Postlude                                  “At the Lamb’s High Feast”                                  Gram

*\*The congregation will please stand.*

The Lectionary passages for April 28 are found on the following pages in the pew Bible:

- Acts 8:26-40 ~ pages 892-893
- Psalm 22:25-31 ~ page 435
- I John 4:7-21 ~ page 991
- John 15:1-8 ~ page 878

**Liturgy of the Light**

**This Evening ~ 5:30 p.m. ~ Sanctuary**

Everyone is invited to attend this worship service which is centered on the Christ candle, celebrates Eastertide, and is led by our children.

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Please join us as we celebrate the  
 57th Anniversary of Northminster Baptist Church

**Anniversary Potluck Luncheon**

**Sunday, May 5 immediately following the worship service**

Bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert.  
 Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring serving utensils and label your dishes and serving pieces.

Volunteers: Sara Cox, Mary Heard, Cade Montague, Joe Rankin,  
 Anna Katherine Scott and M’lee Williams

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**MEALS ON WHEELS**

Monday, May 6

Cooks

Becky Wooley  
 Polly Bourne  
 Kathryn Davis

Drivers

Rt. 1 Charles & Susan O’Mara  
 Rt. 2 Bob & Hilda Boteler

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**Meals on Wheels needs volunteers**

Meals on Wheels needs substitute drivers.  
 Your participation will be greatly appreciated.  
 If you can help, contact Steve Bass at 601-209-2436.

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**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

May 5

**Firecrackers**

Sandra & Rob Triplett

**Sparklers**

Kelly & Josh Guyton

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**BRUMFIELD HOUSE**

May 2

Bryan Bridges

May 9

Skipper Jernigan

May 16

Bill Thompson

May 23

Scott Wilson

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Youth Sunday School**

Join us at 9:15 a.m. There will be donuts and good conversation.

**Sunday Nights at the Youth House**

Tonight we will meet at the youth house at 5:00 to eat dinner and then walk over to the sanctuary to attend Liturgy of the Light led by the children.

**End of the Year Party**

Is next Sunday, May 5th! We will have burgers and crawfish on the deck of the youth house, play games and enjoy fellowship with one another as we wrap up another school year.

**Summer Events**

All summer events will include the rising 7th graders! We will have some in town summer events. Dates will be posted soon so check back for those.

**Smith Lake Youth Lake Trip**

The youth will travel to Smith Lake, AL June 10-13. Deadline to sign up is May 6 with a deposit of \$50. The total cost is \$150 due by June 5th. Please email Dabbs at [dabbs@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:dabbs@northminsterbaptist.org) to reserve your spot or for any questions you might have.

**Passport**

The youth will travel to Passport Youth Camp at Converse University in Spartanburg, SC July 13-19.

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**ATTENTION GRADUATES**

(or parents of graduates)

We are seeking the names of those who are graduating this year from college, graduate school, law school, medical school, etc.

Please call or email the church office at 601-982-4703 or [neely@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:neely@northminsterbaptist.org) with name, degree and school information.

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**Pastoral Care Number**

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

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**Wider Net Book Club**

*Having Nothing, Possessing Everything*, by Mike Mather. Book club meeting TBD. Books are available in the church office for \$20. You may write a check or follow the QR code to pay on the church's online payment portal (select Wider Net: Book Club Book tab).



**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**

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Rick and Judy Gregory on the death of Rick's father, Gus Gregory.

**ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS**

Gorman Schaffer	Sue Edwards	Virginia Hamilton
Roxanne Aldridge	R.W. McCarley	Libby McGee
Carolyn Aden	Mary Lou Jernigan	Carla Holt
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 Fifth 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.

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The Deacon of the Week is Dudley Wooley.  
 The Caregiving Chair for April is Sarah Reynolds.  
 The Caregiving Coordinators for April are Annette Hitt and Sunny Fowler.  
 The Caregiving Chair for May is Sunny Fowler.  
 The Caregiving Coordinator for May is Sarah Reynolds.  
 The Caregiver of the Week is Nora Etheridge.  
 The Liturgist for April is Gray Jackson.  
 The Liturgist for May is Amanda Milam.  
 The Flowers for April are provided by Jill Buckley, Kathryn Davis, Kandy Sims and Lesley Mosby.  
 The Flowers for May are provided by Kathryn Sams, Kandy Sims, Lawana McLennan and Jill Buckley.  
 The Usher Captain for April is Keith Davis.  
 The Usher Captain for May is Matt Kelly.