

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

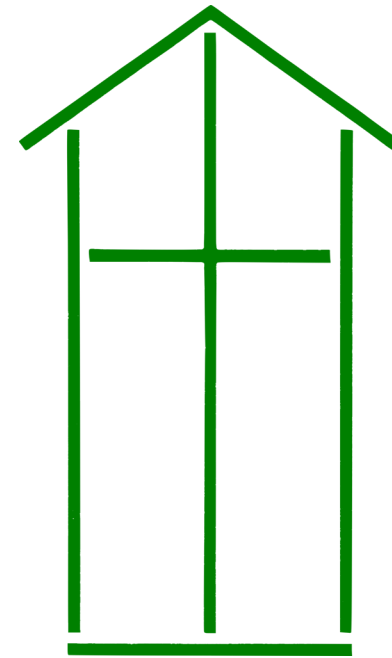
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Holly Wiggs.
The Caregiving Chair for February is Sunny Fowler.
The Caregiving Coordinator for February is Jean Welsh.
The Caregiver of the Week is Jean Welsh.
The Liturgist for February is Elizabeth Quinn.
The flowers for February are provided by Kathryn Davis,
Jill Buckley, Becky Frame and Kathryn Sams.
The Usher Captain for February is Judy Rankin.

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 Senior Adults	Marty Harper
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

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



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

VESPERS SERVICE

February 2, 2025
Five-thirty o'clock

The Prelude “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” Milford

The Welcome Scott Dickison

*The Opening Sentences

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

People: Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

People: Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts is the King of glory.

Leader: With my whole heart I want to praise You.

People: O Lord, hear my voice.

Leader: If you, Lord, should mark iniquities:

People: Who could stand? Who could stand?

Leader: I will wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

All: And in God's word do I hope.

—Psalm 130

*The Hymn No. 552

OLIVET

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

The Prayer of Confession Lesley Ratcliff

Dear friends in Christ, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary; bless the dying; soothe the suffering; pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

*The Postlude “Celebrate with Joy and Singing” Callahan

*The congregation will please stand.

The scriptures for this evening are found
On the following pages of the pew Bible:

Malachi 3:1-4, page 778
Hebrews 2:14-18, pages 971-972
Luke 2:22-40, page 833

Liturgy adapted from Evening Prayer from Northumbria Community's Celtic Daily Prayer published by Collins, *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book, Vol. I, Ordinary Time*, and *A New Zealand Prayer Book, Night Prayer (The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)*

You look on us with mercy and tenderness. We pray for ourselves and those dear to us.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You show patience in your promise. We pray for our community and for our neighbors.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

You are the strength and song of your people. We pray for the church in all places, that we may reflect your faithful love.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Your love fills the earth. We pray for the world and those in positions of power.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer you other concerns we carry in our hearts.

(open prayers)

In your mercy,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, who raised Jesus from death to life, you heal the wounds our swords inflict and deliver us from fear to faith. Grant us trust in your saving power, that we might know your restoring touch this night and rise tomorrow to sing your praise. Through Jesus the Savior, in whose name we pray, saying,

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*The Hymn No. 659

“A Charge to Keep”

BOYLSTON

Silence is kept

Lord, You have always given bread for the coming day;
**and though I am poor,
today I believe.**

Lord, You have always given strength for the coming day;
**and though I am weak,
today I believe.**

Lord, You have always given peace for the coming day;
**and though of anxious heart,
today I believe.**

Lord, You have always kept me safe in trials;
**and now, tried as I am,
today I believe.**

Lord, You have always marked the road for the coming day;
**and though it may be hidden,
today I believe.**

Lord, You have always lightened this darkness of mine;
**and though the night is here,
today I believe.**

Lord, You have always spoken when time was ripe;
**and though you be silent now,
today I believe.**

Silence is kept

Lord our God,

**in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgment;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

—Hosea 6

The Assurance of Pardon

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled with us through Christ.

—II Corinthians 5

**May the God of love
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Lessons

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord,
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as

holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord,
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Meditation

Scott Dickison

The Musical Response “I Waited for the Lord”

Mendelssohn

Shirley Foster and Cheryl Coker, *sopranos*

The Intercessions

Lesley Ratcliff

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

God will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

God of boundless compassion, we offer our prayers as acts of love for you and for our neighbors.

In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.