



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

We do not think ourselves into new ways of living;
we live ourselves into new ways of thinking.

—Richard Rohr

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025
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 Meditation of Preparation

Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences
us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful....

—Richard Rohr

The Prelude “Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured” Jones

The Call to Worship “Drop, Drop, Slow Tears” Gibbons

Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,
which brought from heav'n the news and Prince of peace.

Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

The Procession of the Lenten Banner Iyanu Carson

*The Processional Hymn No. 317 *OLD HUNDREDTH*

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

*The Litany of Praise Anna Katherine Scott

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The light of God surrounds us.

People: And where God is, all is well.

Leader: The love of God protects us.

People: And where God is, all is well.

Leader: The presence of God watches over us.

People: And where God is, all is well.

All: Wherever we are, God is; and where God is, all is well. Amen.

*The Gloria Patri

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

Anna Katherine Scott

The Greeting

Marty Harper

The Lessons

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13

Marty Harper

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Create in us a clean heart, O God.
Put a new and right spirit within us. Amen.

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Marty Harper

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Marty Harper

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. 563

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

“I Want to Be a Christian”

*The Offertory Prayer

Anna Katherine Scott

The Offertory

“Ah, Jesus, Dear”

Brahms

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise loving God, whom we adore.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“More Love to Thee”

Helvey

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee;
This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee,
More love to thee, more love to thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now thee alone I seek, give what is best;
This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee,
More love to thee, more love to thee!

Then shall my latest breath sing out thy praise.
This be the only song my heart shall raise;
This still my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to thee,
More love to thee, more love to thee!

The Sermon

“An Opportune Time”

Lesley Ratcliff

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

The inspiration you seek is already within you. Be silent and listen.

—Rumi

*The Recessional Hymn No. 213

HAMBURG

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

*The Benediction

Lesley Ratcliff

*The Postlude

“Lead Us, Heavenly Father”

White

**The congregation will please stand.*

The scriptures for today are found on
the following pages in the pew Bible:

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, pages 477-478

Romans 10:8b-13, page 921

Luke 4:1-13, page 835

Today is the first Sunday in Lent. Lent is the season in which we anticipate Jesus’ final trip to Jerusalem and the self-giving nature of love shown in his Passion and death. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and extends for forty weekdays through Saturday of Holy Week. Sundays are excluded from Lent, being regarded as feast days in the midst of the forty-day fast. Because Lent is the most strongly penitential season of the year, the liturgical color is purple.

Our Lenten banner is a visual symbol of Christ’s sacrifice. The images of the cross, thorns, and spear remind us of his agony on our behalf. The pattern is broken, reminding us of the power of the cross, the disruption of evil, and a life broken for us. The purple recalls the penitential color of Lent and the red reminds us of sacrifice.

The banner was designed and made by a Northminster member.

In observance of the Lenten season, only candles and the Bible will be placed on the communion table, reminding us of this prayerful Lenten journey, until the grace of Easter blooms again.

The Northminster Flower Committee

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 23
immediately following the worship service

Agenda

- I. Recommendation from Search Committee
for Associate Pastor for Students
- II. Recommendation for Allocation of
2024 Budget Surplus
- III. Update on Construction Projects

————— 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

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer	Libby McGee	Carolyn Aden
Tom Starling	Sue Edwards	Linda McGehee
Carla Holt	Virginia Hamilton	

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.

Pastoral Care Number

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

Brumfield House

March 13: Jeff Wilson
March 20: Justin Beard
March 27: Mike Peters
April 3: Mitch Peters

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, March 19

Cooks:	Rt. 1 Drivers:
Elizabeth Quinn	Amy Finkelberg & Nancy Smith
Kathy Burkhalter	Rt. 2 Drivers:
Sara Hays	Monica Daniels & Carol Taff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Around the Table Sign Ups

If you'd like to sign up to participate, please fill out the google form here: <https://forms.gle/zhhTFx7U7yfNm7fS8>

Our faith teaches us that miraculous and mysterious things are known to happen around a table, especially when it's filled with food and drink. Tables have a way of breaking down walls and forcing us to see face to face, if not always eye to eye. Tables draw us in, creating holy space between us, or perhaps reminding us that the space between us is always holy and not nearly as vast as we believe. The gospels tell us it was around a table laden with food that Jesus spent much of his ministry, reminding people not simply of God's nearness but also of their neighbors'. It was around a table that Jesus spent his last night with his friends, telling them to remember him whenever they shared a meal. And of all the biblical images available to him to describe life in the world to come, a table replete with rich food and drink where all the people of the earth would gather and celebrate was Jesus's favorite.

Mindful of all these things, this Lent our congregation is going to gather around a table and watch what the presence of Christ there with us will reveal. Or rather, we're going gather around many different tables—perhaps even your table!

Introducing “Around the Table,” a congregational supper club of sorts.

Over three Saturday evenings this spring, members of our congregation will host a potluck dinner party for 3-4 other families and individuals

from within the church (8-12 people total).

- The pairings will be assigned with an eye toward bringing people together from across the different groups and ministries within the church. We'll gather in each other's homes, eat each other's food, learn more about what has brought each of us to this place, and hopefully understand more about what binds us together as a people.

- Accommodations will be made for folks with dietary restrictions and transportation needs.

- Childcare will be available at the church. We want to remove as many barriers as possible, so please reach out to Lesley with any concerns.

Questions? Please contact Lesley Ratcliff
at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or 601-982-4703.

A Lenten Offering

The Worship and Music Committee offers *A Lenten Journey 2025* daily devotional guide for meditation and reflection during this season of Lent. We hope that the creative expressions and offerings by members and friends of Northminster will encourage and enhance your personal worship during this season of spiritual preparation. Copies are available throughout the church for you to take and share.

Genesis Continued: The Family of God

Picking up where we left off in our fall study, we continue to make our way through this foundational biblical text. Tracing the tree of the founding family of our faith—filled with scoundrels, saints, and everything in between—we will ask where we find ourselves in these stories and what it means to be a part of God's family. We meet in the Great Hall at 5:30 p.m.

March 16: Jacob and Esau, Leah and Rachel

March 23: Joseph and His Brothers

In collaboration with the Dialogue Institute Mississippi

Ramadan Interfaith Dinner

Tuesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

This will be a time of fellowship followed by presentations on fasting in the Christian and Muslim traditions by Northminster pastors and Sabri Agachan, a friend of Northminster and state representative for the Dia-

logue Institute Mississippi. We will break the fast with a meal beginning at sunset, around 7:10, which will offer food from Aladdin Mediterranean Grill as well as dishes prepared by our Turkish friends and other Muslim families in our community.

Because food is being prepared by our friends, we kindly request reservations for dinner by Friday, March 14.

To RSVP, please call or email the church office.

Lunch & Learn with Hunter Evans

Tuesday, March 25
12:00 p.m. in the Great Hall
Cost: \$10.00

Hunter is the Executive Chef at Elvie's and The Mayflower Cafe, and he will be speaking about hospitality and the restaurant industry.

Please RSVP by March 25 to
lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or 601-982-4703

———— 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

We will not meet tonight. Join us March 16 at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, games, fellowship and a lesson.

Upcoming Dates

Stewpot: Saturday, April 5
No Youth Group, April 20
Senior Recognition Sunday, May 4
End of Year Party: Sunday, May 4
Youth Passport Camp: June 21-27

————— **CHILDREN'S NEWS** —————

Preschool Atrium, Elementary Atrium and Four5Six

Will not meet tonight.

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

- March 16: Firecrackers—Ceejaye & Mitch Peters
Sparklers—Lorraine & Smith Boykin
- March 23: Chapel Coordinators—Taylor & Justin Beard
Firecrackers—Sheri & Clint Moody
Sparklers—Sophia & Rachel Royston

Children's Birthday Gathering

Thursday, March 20, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Children whose birthdays are in March are invited to stop by the Great Hall to enjoy an ice cream treat with Lesley.

Parents' Night Out

Friday, March 28, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

You can make a reservation for your children (infant—sixth grade) by calling the church office at 601-982-4703 by Wednesday, March 26. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive or provide a brown-bag supper. We will also have Parents' Night Out on May 9.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, March 9

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, March 10

8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR

Tuesday, March 11

5:30 p.m. Special Gifts Cmte., L/CR

Wednesday, March 12

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, L/CR

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 16

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

3:30 p.m. Education Leadership Cmte., L/CR

5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six

5:00 p.m. Youth, YH

5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

6:45 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, L/CR

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Charles O'Mara.
The Caregiving Chair for March is Susan O'Mara.
The Caregiving Coordinators for March are Faye Barham and
Kathryn Davis.
The Caregiver of the Week is Faye Barham.
The Liturgist for March is Joe Rankin.
The flowers for March are provided by Lawana McLennan,
Lesley Mosby, Geri Smith, Kandy Sims and Becky Frame.
The Usher Captain for March is Nancy Smith.

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

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