

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Oh me! Oh life! of the questions of these recurring,
Of the endless trains of the faithless, of cities fill'd with the foolish,
Of myself forever reproaching myself, (for who more foolish than
I, and who more faithless?)
Of eyes that vainly crave the light, of the objects mean, of the
struggle ever renew'd,
Of the poor results of all, of the plodding and sordid crowds I
see around me,
Of the empty and useless years of the rest, with the rest me
intertwined,
The question, O me! so sad, recurring—What good amid these,
O me, O life?

Answer.

That you are here—that life exists and identity,
That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse.

—Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP

Ascension Sunday

June 1, 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

The service would brighten up with the first chord of music from the organ. We would lift up our eyes unto the hills where the real world would hopefully still be going on when we got out of church.

—Ellen Gilchrist, *Falling Through Space*

The Prelude “Jesus Shall Reign” Blaire

The Call to Worship “Sing Ye to the Lord” Titcomb

Sing ye, sing ye, sing ye to the Lord
who ascended, who ascended to the
heav'n of heav'n, to the sun rising.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The Procession of the Easter Banner Rhodes Massey

*The Processional Hymn No. 263 *HYFRYDOL*

“Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”

*The Litany of Praise Dana Wilson

Leader: The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice.

People: Let the many coastlands be glad!

Leader: The heavens proclaim God's righteousness,

People: And all the peoples behold God's glory.

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,

All: And give thanks to God's holy name!

—from Psalm 97

*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

Dana Wilson

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons

Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:15-23

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

In a minute there is time
For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse.

—T. S. Eliot, *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Lesley Ratcliff

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 trespass-
es, 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. 562

DIX

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

*The Offertory Prayer

Dana Wilson

The Offertory

“Our Father in Heaven”

Bach

**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 24:44-53

Geoff Davidson

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master”

Bedford

Davan Sagara, *trumpet*

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious; he rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

“Salvation to God who sits on the throne!”
let all cry aloud and honor the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love. Amen.

The Sermon

“Witnesses of These Things”

Lesley Ratcliff

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Call to the Table

Lesley Ratcliff

The Communion Litany

Pastor: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

People: **Thanks be to God for the broken bread.**

Pastor: After supper, he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, “Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

People: **Thanks be to God for the cup.**

Pastor: Thanks be to God for the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

All: **Thanks be to God for the table of communion.**

The Bread—Worshippers will come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread, and return to the pews by an outside aisle. Anyone preferring to receive a blessing should simply cross their arms over their chest as if in prayer, and the deacon will offer a blessing. A gluten-free option is available at the communion table.

The Cup—Worshippers will be served the cup seated in the pews. Once all have been served, we will drink the cup together.

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

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work; you don't give up.

—Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*

*The Recessional Hymn No. 262

DARWALL

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

*The Benediction

Lesley Ratcliff

*The Postlude

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

Powell

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Acts 1:1-11, page 884

Ephesians 1:15-23, page 949

Luke 24:44-53, page 861

Today is Ascension Sunday, or the Seventh 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.

————— 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

Congratulations to Conner and Kelsey Mayhan McMillin on the occasion of their marriage Saturday, May 31.

 Northminster is saddened by the death of Silas McCharen, a member of Northminster since 1990. Christian sympathy is extended to Leesa McCharen, and all of Silas' family and friends.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer	Libby McGee	Carolyn Aden
Carla Holt	Sue Edwards	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

June 5:	Mike Peters
June 12:	Jeff Wilson
June 19:	Dudley Wooley

Meals on Wheels

Monday, June 2

Cooks:	Rt. 1 Drivers:
Kandy Sims	Steve Bass
Becky Wooley	Rt. 2 Drivers:
Annette Hitt	Pat & Mike Beall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HALF TRUTHS

A Summer Bible Study

Tuesdays at noon, beginning June 10

Lunch: \$10

“Everything happens for a reason.” “God helps those who help themselves.” We have all heard these familiar sayings, and perhaps even leaned upon them in times of crisis or confusion. While these bits of wisdom and others like them can provide comfort amid difficulty, do they share the full wisdom of scripture and care of our God? Using noted pastor and theologian Adam Hamilton’s book *Half Truths* as an outline, we’ll gather on Tuesdays this summer in the Great Hall over a light lunch to explore these sayings to find the truths within and beyond them.

Pastors' Benevolence Fund

One of the clearest ways we impact our community as a church every week is through direct assistance to those in need through our Pastors' Benevolence Fund. This account, entirely funded by gifts from our members, has already provided nearly \$54,000 in relief this year, in the form of utility bills, school supplies, temporary housing, transportation, and many other essential needs.

After such an active start to the year, this account is depleted. As we enter the summer months and families adjust to their children being home from school, we anticipate an increase in requests. Please consider donating to this fund, either through the church’s online payment portal or by writing a check to the church designated to “pastors’ benevolence.”

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Sunday School

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

Bibles for Rising Seventh Graders

As our seniors leave, our rising seventh graders become part of the Youth Group. The tradition has been to have members of the congregation honor new Youth Group members with a Bible to use throughout their years at Northminster. The Bibles cost \$30 each. If you are interested in honoring one of these new members of our Youth Group with a Bible, please contact the church office at 601-982-4703 or neely@northminsterbaptist.org.

This year's new Youth Group members

Mary Phillips Beard
Iyanu Carson
Ann Mabry Hendrix
Hallie McGinnis
Vaughn Strum

Upcoming Dates

Stewpot: Saturday, June 7
Second Sunday Kickback: Sunday, June 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
TopGolf!: Tuesday, June 17th, late afternoon
Bible Camp (Youth Volunteers): July 11-13
Second Sunday Kickback: July 13, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Swim Night: Thursday, July 24
Stewpot: Saturday, August 2
Cookout at the Dickisons': Sunday, August 3
More information to follow.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

June 1: Chapel Coordinators—Lida & Gregg Caraway
Firecrackers—Lucia & Samuel McCoy
Sparklers—Miles & David Munn

June 8: Firecrackers—Natalie & Cy Parks
Sparklers—Jennifer & Drew Rymer

June 15: Firecrackers—Camille & Drew Snyder
Sparklers—Audrey Dickison & Brock Ratcliff

Splash Day

Today, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Children and their families will gather in the backyard at Northminster for water slides, splash pools and sprinkler fun!

Bring your swimsuit, towels and sunscreen,
and we'll provide a snack supper.

Questions? Contact Lesley at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org.

Summer Sunday School

9:15-10:15 a.m.

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!

Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, June 3, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Under Construction!

Children's Bible Camp

July 11-13

Register here:



Contact Sandra Triplett at sandratriplett23@gmail.com
or 601-278-3817 with questions.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, June 1

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

11:30 a.m. Children's Ministries Cmte.

5:30 p.m. Splash Day

Monday, June 2

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

10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, June 3

3:00 p.m. Children's Birthday Gathering, GH

5:30 p.m. Safety Committee, L/CR

Wednesday, June 4

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

1:30 p.m. Senior Adult Ministries Cmte., L/CR

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 5

4:00 p.m. Committee on Committees, L/CR

Saturday, June 7

9:30 a.m. Youth Stewpot, GH

Sunday, June 8

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Baptism

5:30 p.m. Youth Second Sunday Kickback, YH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Trey Clark.
The Caregiving Chair for June is Sarah Reynolds.
The Caregiving Coordinator for June is Suzanne Boone.
The Caregivers of the Week are Melissa and Steve Godbold.
The Liturgist for June is Marty Kelly.
The flowers for June are provided by Lesley Mosby,
Jane Claire Williams, Lawana McLennan, Kandy Sims
and Kathryn Sams.
The Usher Captain for June is Matt Kelly.

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 Students	Geoff Davidson
Associate Pastor for Senior Adults	Marty Harper
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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