



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Love has bridged the high-rises of despair we were about to fall between. Love has been a penlight in the blackest, bleakest nights. Love has been a wild animal, a poultice, a dinghy, a coat. Love is why we have hope.

—Anne Lamott, *Notes on Hope*

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 25, 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

Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery.

—Wendell Berry, from *Hannah Coulter*

The Prelude “My Song Is Love Unknown” Williams

The 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 Billy Dickison

*The Processional Hymn No. 20 *ODE TO JOY*
“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

*The Litany of Praise Elizabeth Boone

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: May God be merciful to us and bless us. May the Lord’s face shine upon us.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord so that everyone will learn to follow the Lord, and all nations will see the Lord’s power to save.

Leader: Let us celebrate and sing for joy, for the Lord judges fairly and with integrity.

People: The Lord guides us and provides all that we need.

All: Praise God who continues to bless us. May the whole world come to know and worship our God.

—an improvisation on Psalm 67

*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

Elizabeth Boone

The Greeting

Marty Harper

The Lessons

Acts 16:9-15
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

Marty Harper

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

I pray because I must ... because prayer is thought,
because prayer is the nature of God.

What else can be compared to that peculiar comfort,
that indefinable calm that comes stealing over me when,
perplexed and confused, I have turned to God,
simply dropped my burdens and problems,
and flung myself into the Creator's protecting arms?

—Ernest L. Brown III
from “Why Do I Pray?”

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Scott Dickison

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.

TIME OF RESPONSE

So may we know the hope that is not just for someday
but for this day—
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us:

hope not made of wishes but of substance,
hope made of sinew and muscle and bone,
hope that has breath and a beating heart,
hope that will not keep quiet and be polite,
hope that knows how to holler when it is called for,
hope that knows how to sing when there seems little cause,
hope that raises us from the dead—

not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and
again and
again.

—Jan Richardson, *The Cure for Sorrow:
A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief*

*The Recessional Hymn No. 45 NETTLETON

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*The Benediction Scott Dickison

*The Postlude “God Himself Is Present” Burkhardt

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Acts 16:9-15, page 900

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, page 1008

John 14:23-29, pages 877-878

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Dallas Freeman Jernigan. The proud parents are Guy and Steffany Jernigan.

Today is the Sixth 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 Guy and Steffany Jernigan on the birth of their son, Dallas Freeman Jernigan. Dallas is also welcomed by his brother Kai; Skipper, Judy and Kayla Jernigan; and Jay, Krysten, Lynnon and Harris Jernigan.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer
Carla Holt

Libby McGee
Sue Edwards

Carolyn Aden
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.

The church office will be closed Monday, May 26. Caregiving will not meet, but will resume Monday, June 2. For pastoral care needs, please call 601-980-1002.

Brumfield House

May 29:	TBA
June 5:	Mike Peters
June 12:	Jeff Wilson
June 19:	Dudley Wooley
June 26:	Bo Allen

Meals on Wheels

Monday, May 26

Cooks:	Rt. 1 Drivers:
Helen Turner	Susan & Charles O'Mara
Amy Moremen	Rt. 2 Drivers:
Cathy Davis	Steve Bass

———— 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.

Congratulations to our College and University Graduates

John B. Wooley	Masters of Psychology, Teachers College at Columbia University
Kimberly Blount	English major with minors in Chemistry and Biology, Wake Forest University
Rosemary Hicks	Associate's Degree, Jones Community College
Katie Pace	Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education, University of Mississippi
Ella Jane Simmons	Bachelor of Arts, Journalism, University of Mississippi
Hawthorne Cleveland	Bachelor of Science, Chemistry, with a minor in Biology, University of Alabama
Katie White	Bachelor of Science, Human Environmental Services, University of Alabama
Betsy Van Meter	Bachelor of Arts, Health Sciences, Hendrix College
Sarah Beth Greener	Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting and Bachelor of Arts, French, Southern Methodist University
Madeleine Wiggs	Master of Science in History of Art, Theory and Display, University of Edinburgh
Noel Wiggs	Master of Taxation and Data Analytics, Patterson School of Accountancy, University of Mississippi
Kelsey Mayhan	Master of Taxation and Data Analytics, Patterson School of Accountancy, University of Mississippi
Sophia Royston	M.D., University of Mississippi Medical School
Laurel Lackey Branch	Fellowship in Interventional Endoscopy, University of California San Diego

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 with degree and school information.

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.

Summer Sunday School

We will begin Summer Sunday School on June 1!

Splash Day

Sunday, June 1, 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.

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, May 25

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, May 26

The church office is closed.

10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, May 28

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

11:00 a.m. Spann End-of-Year Staff
Luncheon, GH

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, June 1

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

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

5:30 p.m. Splash Day

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Elizabeth Boone.
The Caregiving Chair for May is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiving Coordinators for May are Jean Welsh and Susie Friou.
The Caregiving Chair for June is Sarah Reynolds.
The Caregiving Coordinator for June is Suzanne Boone.
The Caregiver of the Week is Ginger Parham.
The Liturgist for May is Amy Williams.
The Liturgist for June is Marty Kelly.
The flowers for May are provided by Lesley Mosby, Kathryn Sams, Kathryn Davis and Kandy Sims.
The flowers for June are provided by Lesley Mosby, Jane Claire Williams, Lawana McLennan, Kandy Sims and Kathryn Sams.
The Usher Captain for May is Dawn Warrington.
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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