



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Children are gifts from God. They are given to us so we can offer a safe, loving place to grow to inner and outer freedom.

—Henri J. M. Nouwen

***NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211***

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 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

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

—Matthew 19:14

The Prelude "Like a River Glorious" Pethel

The Call to Worship "O Be Joyful in the Lord" Yarrington

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
And come before his presence with a song!
Bless the Lord!

*The Processional Hymn No. 95 *CORONATION*

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

*The Litany of Praise Betsy Beard

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

People: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Leader: The Lord is high above all nations and God's glory above the heavens.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

—Psalm 113:2-4

*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

Betsy Beard

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Presentation of Bibles to First Graders

Mary Lynnon Jernigan
Daniel William Stancill
Mary Gilbert Wylie

Joseph Kirkland Sims, III
Olivia Brooks Vance

Pastor: This is an exciting time for the children who are gathered before us. They have entered first grade, and many of them have also begun worshipping with us in the sanctuary for the first time.

People: **It is our privilege to make a place for them, for they belong to us, just as we all belong to God.**

Pastor: As we officially welcome our first graders to worship today, we present them with Bibles inscribed with their own names, praying that, as the Scripture is placed into their hands, so it will become written upon their hearts.

All: **Together we give thanks for the children of our congregation and for the Bible, both gifts from God to help us all learn and grow.**

The Lessons

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

God's Word, the voice of the Church, and our prayers belong together.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Geoff Davidson

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Geoff Davidson

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. 584

ADELAIDE

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

*The Offertory Prayer

Betsy Beard

The Offertory

“Though I May Speak”

Wood

*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

Luke 16:1-13

Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Nelson

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, and sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely giv'n;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

The Sermon “The Economy of the Kingdom” 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

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you...and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26

*The Recessional Hymn No. 578 *BEACH SPRING*

“Come, All Christians, Be Committed”

*The Benediction Scott Dickison

*The Postlude “Let Heaven Rejoice” Powell

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Amos 8:4-7, page 749

Psalm 113, page 491

Luke 16:1-13, page 851

Today is the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Season after Pentecost celebrates the existence of the church and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world. The liturgical color is green, symbolic of the church's growth and mission. The Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9, Revelation 22:1-2) which rises above the baptistry and is woven into our paraments, underscores this liturgical season's emphasis on the living, growing Kingdom of God.

————— **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 Zina and Steve Bass on the birth of their grandson, Theodore Seal Williams. The proud parents and big sister are Emileigh, Brennan and Eleanor Williams.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer	Libby McGee	Carolyn Aden
Carla Holt	Sue Edwards	Virginia Hamilton

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

September 25: Jeff Wilson
October 2: Joe Sims
October 9: Bo Allen
October 16: Matt Kelly

Meals on Wheels

Monday, September 22

Cooks:	Rt. 1 Drivers:
Ann Calhoon	Bob Hardin
Kelly Hicks	Rt. 2 Drivers:
Gail England	Keith Davis & Steve Bass

————— ANNOUNCEMENTS —————

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday, September 24

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Cost: \$5 per child, \$10 per adult, \$25 per family

Menu: meatloaf with gravy, smashed yukon potatoes,
carrots, salad, roll & apple cobbler

Servers: Sara Cox, Cade Montague and Susan Phillips

Cashier: George Luter

Every Kind of Bird Bam

An afternoon of mahjong and fellowship in the Great Hall

Sunday, September 28

3:00 —5:00 p.m.

If you already know how to play, we'll seat you with others at your level. If you'd like to learn, we'll have a table with teachers.

To sign up, email Lesley@northminsterbaptist.org.

Come join the fun!



Committee on Committees

The Committee on Committees is beginning the work of recruiting committee members for 2026 and wants to hear from you. Scan the QR code below and complete the form to indicate your willingness to serve. Forms are also available on literature tables in the adult building as well as outside the church office, and will be available on tables during Wednesday Night Suppers. Please return your form to the office by *Friday, October 3*. Email any questions to cathypdavis@gmail.com.



Adult Studies

Sundays at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Beloved Community with Andy Andrews Today and September 28

Andy Andrews is the Diocesan Missioner for Becoming Beloved Communities and Congregational Vitality for the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. Building on the conversations we had with Corey Walker during “Different, Distinctive, Daring: After Christendom, Toward Beloved Community,” Andy will lead us in further exploration of being a beloved community.

Bible Study with Scott October 5, 12, 19 and 26

The book of Psalms is found at the literal center of our Bibles. For God’s people through the generations, the Psalms have also been at our spiritual center. Using the first part of Ellen Davis’s beautiful book *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament* as our guide, we will explore what the Psalms teach us about the full range of acceptable speech to God: praise and thanksgiving, but also lament and even curses (!).

A Theology of Death and Dying November 9 and 16

On November 9, Scott will lead us in a study of the theology of dying and how that influences our funeral practices at Northminster. On November 16, we’ll discuss funeral services at Northminster, giving you an opportunity to consider what might be important to you regarding your own funeral and how you can record that with the church.

Lunch & Learn with Mayor Horhn

Tuesday, October 7
12:00 p.m. in the Great Hall
Cost: \$10

John Horhn, mayor of Jackson, will join us for Lunch & Learn. Come enjoy a delicious meal and hear Mayor Horhn's vision for the city of Jackson.

Please RSVP to lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or by calling the church office at 601-982-4703.

Save the date!

Northminster Cares Senior Adult Conference on Dementia

Thursday, November 6, 2025
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Featured speakers
Dr. Kim Tarver
Ashley Parker

Registration now open.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Sunday School

Join us at 9:15 a.m. for donuts and good conversation.

Upcoming Dates

Youth Sunday Nights

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Nights

after supper in the Great Hall

Homework Night

September 24

Stewpot

Saturday, October 4

Halloween Party

Sunday, October 26

5:00 p.m., YH

ReCreate Fall Retreat

November 7—9

Camp Wesley Pines

Stewpot

Saturday, December 6

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 7

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14

————— **CHILDREN'S NEWS** —————

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

September 21: Firecrackers—TBA

Sparklers—Audrey Dickison & Matt Thames

September 28: Chapel Coordinators—Camille & Drew Snyder

Firecrackers—Sarah & Nick Newcomb

Sparklers—Jennifer & Drew Rymer

October 5: Firecrackers—Rebecca & Brooks Vance

Sparklers—Caroline & Kirk Sims

Children's Birthday Gathering

Thursday, October 7, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Parents' Night Out

Friday, November 14, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

You can make a reservation for your children (infant—sixth grade) by calling the church office, 601-982-4703, by Wednesday, November 12. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive, or provide a brown-bag supper.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, September 21

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Class
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/First Grade Bible Presentation
- 11:30 a.m. Worship Class & Lunch, GH
- 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

Monday, September 22

- 8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR
- 10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, September 24

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, L/CR
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper, GH
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Homework Night
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 25

- 5:30 p.m. Library Cmte., L/CR

Sunday, September 28

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Ministries Cmte.
- 3:00 p.m. Every Kind of Bird Bam, GH
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six
- 5:00 p.m. Youth, YH
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Justin Beard.
The Caregiving Chair for September is Susan O'Mara.
The Caregiving Coordinator for September is Steve Godbold.
The Caregiver of the Week is Jean Welsh.
The Liturgist for today is Anne Guidry.
The Liturgists for September are Anne Guidry and
Shirley Sanders Foster.
The flowers for September are provided by Kathryn Davis,
Lisa Kelly and Kandy Sims.
The Usher Captain for September 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 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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