



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Mercy...is an attribute of God; consider this – that in the course of justice none of us should see salvation: we do pray for mercy. And that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy.

—William Shakespeare
The Merchant of Venice

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 26, 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

As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud person is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you.

—C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity

The Prelude “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Pethel

The Call to Worship “O Be Joyful” Coker

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

*The Processional Hymn No. 45 *NETTLETON*

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*The Litany of Praise Neva Eklund

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

People: According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: And put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: and sustain in me a willing spirit.

All: Have mercy on me, O Loving God!

—Psalm 51

*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

Neva Eklund

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons

Psalm 84:1-7
II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Like the spots on Lady Macbeth's hands, guilt will not be removed by anything we are able to do. The only hope for disposing of guilt and getting on with life lies in a Power beyond ourselves. The efforts we make to repair the damage we have done and to undergo growth within ourselves are not something we do in order to earn forgiveness, but something we undertake *because we have been forgiven.*

—John Claypool

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. 540

HOLINESS

“Take Time to Be Holy”

*The Offertory Prayer

Neva Eklund

The Offertory “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Buxtehude

*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 18:9-14

Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Here I Am, Lord”

Young

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone,
I will speak my word to them.

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save. Whom shall I send?
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life for them,
My hand will save. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

The Sermon

“Standing to Ourselves”

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

What are things that last? Joy and peace. Mercy and compassion. Kindness and fairness. Generosity and grace and love. These are the marks of God’s kingdom, the things we’re told to seek first and everything else will be given to us.

—Scott Dickison

*The Recessional Hymn No. 539

HOUSTON

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Postlude

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Pethel

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Psalm 84:1-7, pages 472-473

II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, page 968

Luke 18:9-14, page 853

Today is the Twentieth 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 Logan and Kylie Olsen Massey on the occasion of their marriage on October 18.

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

October 30:	Skipper Jernigan
November 6:	Matt Kelly
November 13:	Mitch Peters
November 20:	Elizabeth Boone
November 27:	Mike Peters

Meals on Wheels

Monday, October 27

Cooks:	Drivers:
Polly Watkins	Rt. 1: Julie & Dudley Wooley
Jean Welsh	Rt. 2: James Bethea &
Cathy Davis	John Dawson

Monday, November 3

Cooks:	Drivers:
Kathy Burkhalter	Rt. 1: Laine & Bob Hardin
Sara Hays	Rt. 2: Pat & Mike Beall
Jim Blackwood	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Studies

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

The Prayers of the People: Studies in Psalms Tonight

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.

Women's Book Study is back!

Honoring the Body: Meditations on a Christian Practice

Tuesdays through November 11
6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall

Supper will be provided for \$10 per person.
Call Lesley at 601-982-4703 or email her at
lesley@northminsterbaptist.org with questions or to sign up.

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday, October 29
5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall
Cost: \$5 per child, \$10 per adult, \$25 per family

Menu: roasted chicken & sausage stew,
rice, salad, french bread and cake

Servers: Jennifer Carter, Amy Moremen and Judy & Joe Rankin
Cashier: George Luter

Mahjong Ministry

Sundays, 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Today

Dragons & Jokers & Candy, Oh, My!

Bring your favorite candy and join us for an afternoon of Mahjong fun!
If you would like to attend, please let Lesley know immediately following worship.

November 16 Thankful Tiles

Bring canned goods for Stewpot! Each canned good and each mahjong will get you an entry into the drawing for prizes.



Sign up here for November 16!

December 21 Merry Mahjong

The highest scorer at each table will take home a mahjong ornament.



Sign up here for December 21!

These events will be for folks who have learned the basics. If you haven't yet, please reach out to Lesley about a time to learn.

2026 Northminster Deacon Officers

At their October meeting, the Deacons elected the following officers for 2026

Chair: Wilson Stribling
Vice Chair: Blakely Fender
Secretary: Geri Smith

Also, the Deacons elected
Marty Kelly as Church Clerk and
George Smith as Church Treasurer.

Book Buddies Needed

Two of the organizations we support through the Adopt-a-School, Wider Net and Local & Direct Missions Committees have opportunities for reading with students.

Spann Elementary School

Reading buddies are needed for one hour per week any time between 7:30 and 1:30 on Monday through Friday. Volunteers will spend 30 minutes each with two children listening to them read and asking reading comprehension questions. Reading buddies can also bring in a favorite book to read to the children. To volunteer, contact Lesley Ratcliff at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or call the church office.

Operation Shoestring

Volunteers are needed on the first Tuesday of the month from 3:30-4:30 to listen to kindergarten, first and second graders read. Volunteers will occasionally be invited to complete a craft related to the reading. The books and crafts will be provided. To volunteer, contact Annette Hitt at annettehitt329@gmail.com.

These are brief opportunities that make a big impact!

All Saints' Sunday

November 2

A printed list of names of loved ones who have preceded us into God's nearer presence will be part of our worship on All Saints' Sunday.

On the evening of November 2, we will meet in the sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. for an All Saints' Vesper Service, at which time the names will be read aloud.

It's Time to Sign Up!

Northminster Cares

Senior Adult Conference on Dementia

Thursday, November 6

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

All are invited to the conference on dementia and Alzheimer's. Dr. Kim Tarver of the UMMC MIND Center will address the Ten Questions about Dementia. Geriatric Social Worker Ashley Parker will address tips and strategies for caregiving. So whether you are caring for a loved one or simply interested in learning more about Alzheimer's and dementia, this is the conference for you. Lunch will be included.

Sign up using the QR code below, calling the church office 601-982-4703 or emailing Marty Harper at marty@northminsterbaptist.org. Registration is open through October 31.



Northminster's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner & Communion Service

Wednesday, November 19

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert to serve your family plus one more. Meat and drinks will be provided.

Please bring serving utensils and label your dishes and serving pieces.

The meal will be followed by a Thanksgiving Communion service. We will also be collecting money for our annual Boarding Homes Project.

Volunteers: Cade Montague, Gloria Montgomery,
Judy Rankin and Sandi Rhoden

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 16

immediately following the worship service

Agenda

Adoption of the 2026 Budget

Bags of Groceries for Neighbors in Need

We have experienced an uptick in benevolence calls to the church asking for assistance with groceries. We need your help to pre-fill bags of food to have on hand in the office. Each brown paper grocery bag should be filled with the items below (or something close). Bags can be dropped off at the main office.

- 1 jar of creamy peanut butter
- 1 jar of jelly
- 1 package of individual apple sauce cups
- 1 can of beans
- 2-4 packages of EasyMac
- 1 box of spaghetti
- 1 jar of spaghetti sauce
- 4 cans of tuna or chicken
- 1 box of granola bars
- 1 box of cereal
- 1 can of soup
- 1 box of crackers
- 1 can opener

From the Worship and Music Committee

Northminster Baptist Church believes in the leadership of our laity in every aspect of our church, including worship. The Worship and Music Committee oversees the structure and content of our worship with members writing and contributing the liturgy as well as securing a lay reader for each Sunday. The lay reader plays an integral role in the worship experience by leading the Litany of Praise and preparing and offering the Invocation and Offertory Prayer.

If you have an interest in leading the church as a lay reader and have never been asked or have not been asked in a while, the Worship and Music Committee would like to know! Please respond via email or text to Amy Williams, angelsbyamy@aol.com or 601-672-7448.

Baptism of the Lord Vespers Service

Each year Baptism of the Lord Sunday offers an opportunity to be baptized in an evening vespers service. The next Baptism of the Lord Sunday will be January 11, 2026. If you are interested in receiving baptism at this service, please reach out to one of the pastors.

———— YOUTH NEWS ————

Youth Sunday School

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

Sunday Nights at the Youth House

We will meet at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, games, fellowship and a lesson.

Upcoming Dates

Halloween Party

Tonight, 5:00 p.m., YH

Youth Homework Night

Wednesday, November 5, 5:30 p.m.

ReCreate Fall Retreat

November 7-9

Stewpot

Saturday, December 6

Christmas Party

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 p.m., YH

Exams Homework Night with Pancakes!

Wednesday, December 10, YH
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14

Youth shirts and Fall Retreat

The youth will be going on our ReCreate Fall Retreat at Camp Wesley Pines November 7-9. Our time together will be focused on sabbath, learning why it matters and giving our busy students a chance to relax together in God's creation. The cost of the retreat is \$20 and can be paid online.

Fall retreat registration includes this school year's youth shirt. Shirts are also available to purchase for \$17 for any student or adult not going on the retreat. Register or purchase today to guarantee availability and sizing.

————— **CHILDREN'S NEWS** —————

Preschool Atrium, Elementary Atrium and Four5Six

Today at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

- October 26: Chapel Coordinators—Lorraine & Smith Boykin
Firecrackers—Neely & Michael McGinnis
Sparklers—Sheri & Clint Moody
- November 2: Firecrackers—Sophia & Rachel Royston
Sparklers—Mary Kathryn & Bo Allen
- November 9: Chapel Coordinators—Anna & Andy Frame
Firecrackers—Gates & Kyle Skene
Sparklers—Ramsey & Brian Long
- November 16: Firecrackers—Blair & Ryder Taff
Sparklers—Leah & Tal Hendrix

Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, November 4, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Children whose birthdays are in November 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, October 26

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Banner Bearer & Acolyte
Training, Narthex
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 2:30 p.m. Mahjong, GH
- 4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Cmte., L/CR
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir Ensemble
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Halloween Party, YH
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

Monday, October 27

- 8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR
- 10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
- 5:30 p.m. Wider Net Cmte., L/CR

Tuesday, October 28

- 6:00 p.m. Women's Book Study, GH

Wednesday, October 29

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

Sunday, November 2

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six
- 5:00 p.m. Youth, YH
- 5:30 p.m. All Saints Vespers

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Elizabeth Boone.
The Caregiving Chair for October is Sunny Fowler.
The Caregiving Coordinators for October are Faye Barham
and Susie Friou.
The Caregivers of the Week are Kathryn Davis and
Guy Parker III.
The Liturgist for today is Anne Brawley.
The Liturgists for October are Amy Finkelberg and
Anne Brawley.
The flowers for October are provided by Kandy Sims,
John Tingle and Geri Smith.
The Usher Captain for October 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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