



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Simply by making us wait, God increases our desire, which in turn enlarges the capacity of our soul, making it able to receive what is to be given us. So...let us continue to desire, for we shall be filled.

—Saint Augustine of Hippo

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
Ten-thirty o'clock

LIGHT COMING INTO DARKNESS

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

O house of Jacob, come and let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

—Isaiah 2:5

The Prelude “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Callahan

The Call to Worship “Advent Message” How

Come, Lord Jesus, O come quickly!
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:
Prepare ye the way of the Lord;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
Come, Lord Jesus, O come quickly! Amen.

THE COMING OF THE LIGHT

*The Lighting of the Candle of Hope Amelia Champion

*The Advent Banner Worth Champion

*The Processional Hymn No. 133 *VENI EMMANUEL*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The Advent Litany Gray Jackson

Leader: The Hope of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high
time to awake out of sleep

People: for now our salvation is nearer than when
we first believed,

Leader: The night is far spent,

All: the day is at hand.

*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

Gray Jackson

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE CONFESSION OF DARKNESS AND THE ASSURANCE OF LIGHT

The Meditation of Confession

Dear end-of-your-rope, dear worn out and broke,
Dear go-it-alone, dear running from home,
Dear righteously angry, forsaken by family,
Dear jaded and quiet, dear tough and defiant:

I pray that I'm heard,
And I pray that this works.

I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
Against you and your heart,
Against you and your word,
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare, of sorts,
That it might break you open,
It might help you grow.

—Spencer LaJoye,
From “Plowshare Prayer”

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

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.

GRATITUDE FOR THE LIGHT

*The Offertory Hymn No. 271

CWM RHONDDA

“Christ Is Coming! Let Creation”

*The Offertory Prayer

Gray Jackson

The Offertory

“People, Look East”

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!**

PROCLAIMING THE LIGHT

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Ev’ry Valley”

Beck

Jorge Diez, *clarinet*

Ev’ry valley shall be exalted, and ev’ry mountain made low;
and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
Ev’ry valley shall be exalted, and ev’ry mountain made low,
and the crooked straight, and the rough places plain,
and all flesh shall see it together.
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Passing of the Peace

The Call to the Table

Scott Dickison

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

TIME OF RESPONSE

early morning woman
 rising the sun
 the woman
bending and stretching
with the strength of the child
that moves
in her belly

early morning makes her
a woman that she is
the sun
is her beginning
it is the strength
that guides her child

early morning woman
she begins that way
 the sun
 the child
are the moving circle
beginning with the woman
in the early morning

—Joy Harjo
“Early Morning Woman”

*The Recessional Hymn No. 135

HYFRYDOL

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Postlude

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Manz

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Isaiah 2:1-5, page 550

Psalm 122, page 498

Matthew 24:36-44, page 806

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ and of anticipation of the fullness of the kingdom of God. The color purple reflects the Advent themes of preparation and restoration.

The Advent Wreath marks the four Sundays of Advent with the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love surrounding the Christ candle. The ever-green wreath symbolizes the never-ending love of God, and the flickering candlelight dispels the darkness as we are reminded that Jesus is the Light of the World.

The Advent Banner, *Highway Through the Desert*, marks the beginning of the season. The shapes remind us of the unfolding of new life and the flowing of God's spirit among God's people. It is a visual symbol of Emmanuel's coming to earth as told in the book of Isaiah. The prophet foretold the birth of a leader who would cause great changes. On the horizon is a dawning. The banner reminds us of Isaiah 40:3-5:

A voice is calling, "Clear the way of the Lord in the wilderness. Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up and every mountain and hill made low; and the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

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.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer
Carla Holt

Libby McGee
Sue Edwards

Carolyn Aden
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

December 4: Bo Allen
December 11: Bryan Bridges
December 18: Bill Thompson
December 25: Jeff Wilson

Meals on Wheels

Monday, December 1

Cooks:

Lisa Cobb
Annette Hitt
Kandy Sims

Drivers:

Rt. 1: Luke Dove & Bob Hardin
Rt. 2: James Bethea &
Keith Davis

— ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Boarding Homes Project: An Advent Tradition

Sunday, December 7, 1:00 p.m.
Great Hall

For the last four decades Northminster has been delivering warm clothing, food and toiletries to the residents of the Personal Care Homes in Jackson.

Personal Care Homes are private homes for individuals with mental disabilities. These individuals do not qualify for state hospitalization, and many of the residents exchange their Social Security check for room and board, so there is no money available for any extras. Some are in quite difficult circumstances. All of them appreciate a thoughtful visit and gift. On Sunday, December 7, we will gather in the Great Hall and assemble all of our gifts into individual bags: a blanket, toiletries, warm socks, and cookies baked by you. We will then divide into teams and deliver the gifts to every personal care home resident in Jackson. Usually, we are finished by 3:30 p.m.

This is a wonderful intergenerational opportunity for the entire church family to participate in our community together.

You can help by

- Giving a generous financial contribution
- Showing up on Saturday, December 6, at 8:00 a.m. to help unpack and set up for Sunday
- Baking cookies and bringing them in individual gift bags to the Great Hall by Sunday, December 7, at 1:00 p.m.
- Showing up on Sunday, December 7, at 1:00 p.m. to assemble and deliver bags to boarding homes

The Season of Advent

The Worship and Music Committee offers this year's edition of *The Season of Advent 2025* devotional guide as a gift to our congregation. We hope that the creative expressions and offerings by members and friends will encourage and enhance moments of individual worship throughout this season of expectant waiting. Copies are available throughout the church for you to take and share.

Northminster Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is currently in the stairwell foyer with names, ages, clothing sizes and wish lists from children in our community. If you want an angel and may not be present at the church during the time the names are on the tree, Megan will be happy to get an angel's information to you. You may also stop by the church to adopt an angel any time the church office is open. In addition, we have volunteers ready to shop for angels if you are unable to do so but would like to financially support an angel. Remember that more than one person and/or family can work together to provide gifts. Wednesday, December 10, is the last day to bring gifts. Please contact Megan Mayhan with any questions at 601-624-6701 or meganmayhan@gmail.com.

In-Home Communion

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and Advent, Northminster is offering in-home communion. If you or your loved one is not able to attend our worship service, please contact us to arrange a time when we can bring communion to you. If you are interested in sharing communion where you reside, contact Marty Harper by emailing marty@northminsterbaptist.org or by calling 601-954-4348.

Merry Mahjong

Sunday, December 21, 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

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



Sign up here!

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.

Poinsettias

If you would like to provide a poinsettia in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone, please complete a form and return it with \$10 for each plant ordered. You may order in different ways:

Use the insert that will be included in the order of worship on December 7, and return it in the offering plate. You can also stop by the church office to complete a form or send an email to neely@northminsterbaptist.org.

Deadline to receive information is Monday, December 8.

Spann Kindergartners Sing Christmas Carols

You are invited to join the Adopt-A-School Committee in listening to the Spann School kindergartners sing Christmas carols on Wednesday, December 17, at 11:00 a.m. in the Great Hall.

Stewpot Clothes Closet

Stewpot is in need of men's clothing size 40 or lower, especially pants, shoes and belts. You can drop them off at Stewpot or bring them to the church office. Please contact Julie Wooley, jjwooley12@gmail.com or Leslie Ward, lward@northminsterbaptist.org with any questions.

Northminster Women's Retreat

Saturday, February 28—Sunday, March 1
Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond, MS

————— **YOUTH NEWS** —————

Youth Sunday School

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

Upcoming Dates

Sunday Nights at the Youth House

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

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, 3:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

- November 30: Chapel Coordinators—Hart Wylie & Megan Wylie
Firecrackers—Caroline & Kirk Sims
Sparklers—Laura & Patrick Taylor
- December 7: Firecrackers—Amanda & Trey Clark
Sparklers—Miles & David Munn

The Living Nativity

Children in the Beginners, Firecrackers and Sparklers classes, as well as all first through sixth graders, are invited to participate in the Living Nativity, which is a part of the pre-service music for the Christmas Eve Service.

The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- November 30 from 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- December 7 from 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- December 14 from 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- December 21 from 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- December 24 at 4:30 p.m.

All rehearsals will be in the Choir Room, except for December 24, when we will meet in the Great Hall. Because rehearsal times are short, please be on time and attend as many rehearsals as possible.

We look forward to our children leading us in worship throughout the season of Advent!

Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, December 2, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 5, 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, December 3. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive or provide a brown-bag supper.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, November 30

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

4:00 p.m. Youth Ensemble Choir

5:00 p.m. Atrium and Four5Six

5:30 p.m. Youth, YH

Monday, December 1

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

10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, December 2

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

Wednesday, December 3

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

2:00 p.m. Senior Adult Ministries Cmte., L/CR

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 4

5:00 p.m. Committee on Committees, L/CR

Friday, December 5

6:00 p.m. Parents' Night Out

Saturday, December 6

8:00 a.m. Boarding Homes Set-up, GH

Sunday, December 7

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:00 a.m. Living Nativity Practice, Choir Room

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

1:00 p.m. Boarding Homes, GH

4:00 p.m. Youth Ensemble Choir

5:00 p.m. Atrium and Four5Six

5:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, YH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Geri Smith.
The Caregiving Chair for November is Susan O'Mara.
The Caregiving Coordinator for November is Guy Parker III.
The Caregiving Chair for December is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiving Coordinators for December are Annette Hitt,
Susan O'Mara, Sarah Reynolds and Sunny Fowler.
The Caregiver of the Week is Elizabeth Boone.
The Liturgist for November is Monica Daniels.
The Liturgist for December is Gray Jackson.
The flowers for November are provided by Lisa Kelly,
Kandy Sims, Becky Frame and Geri Smith.
The flowers for December are provided by Lisa Kelly
and Kandy Sims.
The Usher Captain for November is Nancy Smith.
The Usher Captain for December is Keith Davis.

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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