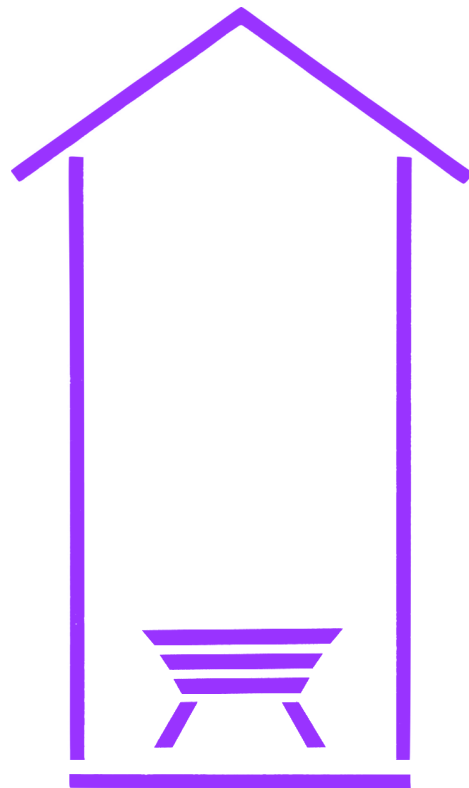


# Gloria in excelsis Deo!



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

**THE ACT OF WORSHIP**  
The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 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, greet our visitors and share your fellowship with those around you.

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

The Prelude "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" Bach

The Call to Worship "Advent Message" Martin How

Come, Lord Jesus, Amen!  
O come quickly, come, Lord Jesus.  
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.  
Yea, come quickly, come, Lord, come. Amen!

\*The Lighting of the Candle of Peace Parker Williams

\*The Advent Banner Mary Tait Hendrix

\*The Processional Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *ADESTE FIDELES*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

*Refrain:*  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

*Refrain:*  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"

*Refrain:*

The Greeting Lesley Ratcliff

The Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Lesley Ratcliff

## “Comfort, Comfort”

John Ferguson

“Comfort, comfort now my people;  
Tell of peace!” So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Mourning under sorrow’s load.  
To God’s people now proclaim  
That God’s pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way!  
Let the valleys rise to meet him,  
And the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
And the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits his holy reign!  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now on earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That God’s word is never broken.

## “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Chad Fothergill

All: Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth  
Comes full homage to demand.

*Choir: Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way;  
As the Light of light, descending from  
the realms of endless day,  
Comes, the pow’rs of hell to vanquish,  
As the darkness clears away.*

*Choir: King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav’nly food.*

All: At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

“And the Glory of the Lord” (from *Messiah*)

Georg Frederik Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
And all flesh shall see it together,  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

\*The Offertory Carol

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Hal Hopson

All: Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Choir: *Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, Off-spring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail incarnate Deity!  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

All: Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

\*The Offertory Prayer

Mary Alden Ratcliff

The Offertory

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Wood

\*The Doxology

*LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia!  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise loving God, whom we adore. Alleluia!**

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Mary Alden Ratcliff

**THE MEDITATION II**

Birth

Scott Dickison

“Bogoroditse Devo”

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya,  
Blagodátnaya Maríye, Gospód s tobóyu.  
Blagoslovyéna ty v zhenákh,  
i blagoslovyén plod chryéva tvoyevó,  
yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshikh.

English translation

Rejoice, virgin mother of God,  
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
for you have borne the Savior of our souls.

“Before the Paling of the Stars”

Timothy Coker

Before the paling of the stars,  
Before the winter morn,  
Before the earliest cock crow,  
Jesus Christ was born:  
Born in a stable,  
Cradled in a manger,  
In the world his hands had made  
Born a stranger.

Priest and King lay fast asleep  
In Jerusalem;  
Young and old lay fast asleep  
In crowded Bethlehem;  
Saint and angel, ox and ass,  
Kept a watch together  
Before the Christmas daybreak  
In the winter weather.

Jesus on his mother’s breast  
In the stable cold,  
Spotless lamb of God was he,  
Shepherd of the fold:  
Let us kneel with Mary maid,  
With Joseph bent and hoary,  
With saint and angel, ox and ass,  
To hail the King of Glory.

“For Unto Us a Child’s Born” (from Cantata #142, BWV 142)

J. S. Bach

For unto us a child’s born,  
A son to us is given.

**THE MEDITATION III**

Incarnation

Scott Dickison

“As Lately We Watched”

Richard Hillert

As lately we watched o’er our fields through the night,  
A star there was seen of such glorious light;  
All through the night angels did sing  
In carols so sweet of the birth of a King.

His throne is a manger, his court is a loft,  
But troops of bright angels, in lays sweet and soft,  
Him they proclaim our Christ by name,  
And earth, sky, and air straight are filled with his fame.

A King of such beauty was ne’er before seen,  
And Mary, his mother, so like to a queen.  
Blest be the hour, welcome the morn,  
For Christ, our dear Savior, on earth now is born.

Then shepherds, be joyful, salute your liege King,  
Let hills and dales ring to the song that you sing.  
Blest be the hour, welcome the morn,  
For Christ, our dear Savior, on earth now is born.

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

Truly he taught us to love one another,  
His law is love, and his gospel is peace;  
Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother,  
And in his name all oppression shall cease.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name;  
Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise his name forever!  
His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!

“Hallelujah” (from *Messiah*)

Handel

Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.  
The kingdom of this world is become the  
Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,  
And he shall reign for ever and ever.

## The Time of Response

### The Parting Carol

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Hopson

- All: 1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
'Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
- Choir: 2. *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hoch-heilige Paar. Holder Knabe mit lockigem Haar.  
Schalf in himmlischer Ruh', Schalf in himmlischer Ruh!*
- Choir: 3. *Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*
- All: 4. Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

\*Benediction

Scott Dickison

\*Postlude

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

Hudson

## The Northminster Choir

### Soprano I

Coker, Cheryl  
Haynes, Suzy  
McGinnis, Neely  
Steadman, Pam

### Alto I

Milam, Amanda  
Monier, Mary-Katherine  
Stribling, Jennifer

### Tenor I

Fillingham, Frank

### Bass I

Haynes, Roger  
Montague, Cade  
Strum, Farrar  
Watson, Kyle

### Soprano II

Brunson, Cindy  
Cook, Jeanne  
Foster, Shirley  
Strum, Lisa

### Alto II

Boyd, Tricia  
Moak, Mary Jane  
Thompson, Sally

### Tenor II

Coker, J J

### Bass II

Edwards, Jack  
England, John  
Gressett, Cody  
Perry, Alan  
Rankin, Joe

Sheila Hess, *Organist/Rehearsal Accompanist*  
Timothy Coker, *Conductor*

## The Orchestra

### Violin I

Marta Szlubowska  
Federico Calderon  
Emily Williams  
Sarah Cartwright

### Viola

Ausra Jasineviciute  
Hristo Hristov  
Leslie Wood

### String Bass

Glenn Hale

### Trumpet

Ben Bullock

### Violin II

Shellie Kemp  
Mary Rogers  
Ann McNally  
Jerome Hawkins

### Cello

Mert Ozkan  
Nancy Bateman  
Margaret Pigott

### Timpani & Percussion

Bud Berthold

### Organ

Sheila Hess

# Advent and Christmas at Northminster

## Boarding Homes Project: An Advent Tradition

Today, 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.

This is a wonderful intergenerational opportunity for the entire church family to participate in our community together. Please join us today to help assemble and deliver bags to boarding homes.

## The Season of Advent

The Worship and Music Committee offers *The Season of Advent 2025*, this year's 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.

## Christmas Caroling

You are invited to join our first—twelfth graders for Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 14 at 1:30 p.m. We'll meet in the back parking lot, carpool to carol at a few members' homes, and return to the church by 3:30.

## 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 anytime 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. Tuesday, December 16, is the last day to bring gifts. Please contact Megan Mayhan at 601-624-6701 or [meganmayhan@gmail.com](mailto:meganmayhan@gmail.com) with any questions.

## 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 Wednesday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Great Hall.

Join us for the church-wide

## Christmas Breakfast

Sunday, December 21  
during the Sunday School hour  
(no Sunday School)  
in the Great Hall

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Wednesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.  
Pre-service music begins at 5:00 p.m.

Childcare will be available.

**MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH**  
**Every member a minister**

The Deacon of the Week is Cheryl Allen.  
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 Sarah Reynolds.  
The Liturgist for December is Gray Jackson.  
The flowers for December are provided by Lisa Kelly  
and Kandy Sims.  
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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[www.northminsterbaptist.org](http://www.northminsterbaptist.org)