

## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The risen, living Christ  
Calls me by my name;  
Comes to the loneliness within me;  
Heals that which is wounded in me;  
Comforts that which grieves in me;  
Seeks for that which is lost within me;  
Releases me from that which has dominion over me;  
Cleanses me of that which does not belong to me;  
Renews that which feels drained within me;  
Awakens that which is asleep in me;  
Names that which is formless within me;  
Empowers that which is newborn within me;  
Consecrates and guides that which is strong within me;  
Restores me to this world which needs me;  
Reaches out in endless love to others through me.

—Flora Slosson Wuellner

**THE ACT OF WORSHIP**  
**The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
February 1, 2026  
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

We gather quietly to prepare our hearts for receiving the gift of community, the gift of redemption, the gift of the bread and cup, the gift of love incarnate.

The Prelude                    “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”                    Busarow

The Call to Worship    “Christ Is the World’s Light”                    Coker

Christ is the world’s light, Christ who we adore; born in our darkness, he became our brother. If we have seen him, we have seen the Father. Glory to God on high! Amen.

\*The Processional Hymn No. 78                    *ST. ANNE*

“O God Our Help in Ages Past”

\*The Litany of Praise                    Camille Snyder

Leader:    The Lord be with you.

**People:    And also with you.**

Leader:    Praise to our God, who offers blessings in the shadows!

**People:    A community for those who are struggling;**

Leader:    A peace that passes all understanding for those who are grieving;

**People:    A haven for those who are overlooked;**

Leader:    A hope for those who long for reconciliation and redemption;

**People:    A celebration for those who are kind and understanding;**

Leader: An understanding for those with good intentions;  
**People:** **A common ground for those willing to come together;**  
Leader: A voice for those who stand up for what is right and good.  
**All:** **With hope, we praise our God, who offers a peaceful kingdom created in the love of God and for one another. Amen.**

\*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

Camille Snyder

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons

Micah 6:1-8  
I Corinthians 1:18-31

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

The Meditation of Confession

O God, you have prepared in peace the path I must follow today. Help me to walk straight on that path. If I speak, remove lies from my lips. If I am hungry, take away from me all complaint. If I have plenty, destroy pride in me. May I go through the day calling on you, you O Lord, who knows no other Lord.

—*Hallelujah for the Day: An African Prayer Book*

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.**

### INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

\*The Offertory Hymn No. 768

*DOVE OF PEACE*

“I Come with Joy”

\*The Offertory Prayer

Camille Snyder

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

Powell

\*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

Matthew 5:1-12

Stan Wilson

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

“O Love”

Hagenberg

Mert Ozkan, *cello*

O Love, that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thy ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain  
and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.

O Love, that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
and in thy ocean depths its flow  
that richer, fuller be.

The Sermon

“Eulogy Virtues”

Stan Wilson

## THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Call to the Table

Lesley Ratcliff  
Geoff Davidson

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

## 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 does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6:8

\*The Recessional Hymn No. 593

*GIFT OF LOVE*

“The Gift of Love”

\*The Benediction

Stan Wilson

\*The Postlude

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Jordan

*\*The congregation will please stand.*

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

Micah 6:1-8, page 757

I Corinthians 1:18-31, pages 926-927

Matthew 5:1-12, pages 785-786

Stan Wilson is our guest in the pulpit today. Stan is the co-pastor of Circle of Mercy in Asheville, North Carolina. He has pastoral experience in lively churches in Durham, NC, and Greenville, SC, but he thinks he truly became a pastor in two congregations in Mississippi, where he lived for 23 years: Northside Baptist Church in Clinton and here at Northminster.


Stan is married to Jennifer Wilson, a math educator and leader in professional development for teachers. They are the parents of Jane (21) and Kate (18), who will soon be students together at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Stan enjoys gravel and mountain biking, hiking, and growing vegetables at the community garden in Black Mountain.

**Today is the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany in Ordinary Time.** Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ. The season after Epiphany continues that emphasis, calling attention to the words and deeds of Jesus' earthly ministry. Also known as "Growing Time," the liturgical color for the Sundays after Epiphany is green.

## 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

 Northminster is saddened by the death of Mark Wiggs, a member of Northminster since 1986. Christian sympathy is extended to Rebecca Wiggs, Patty Wiggs, and Chris, Holly, Madeleine and Noel Wiggs, and all of Mark's friends and family.

Christian sympathy is extended to John and Gayla Purvis on the death of John's brother, Joe Purvis.

### ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer	Libby McGee	Virginia Hamilton
Carla Holt	Beth Israel Congregation	Sue Edwards

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

February 5:	Joe Sims
February 12:	Mike Peters
February 19:	Charles O'Mara

### Meals on Wheels

Monday, February 2

Cooks:	Drivers:
Becky Wooley	Rt. 1: Amy Finkelberg
Polly Bourne	& Nancy Smith
Jim Blackwood	Rt. 2: Cathy & Jeff Davis

## — ANNOUNCEMENTS —

### **Spann Elementary School Socks and Underwear Drive**

Our friends at Spann need underwear and socks for their school clothing closet. They welcome all sizes for children ages 4-12. Please drop your donations off in the church office by Friday, February 6, and we will deliver them to Spann.

### **ADULT STUDIES**

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

#### **Baptist Distinctives: An Exploration of Denominational Relations** Tonight, April 19 and 26

Northminster provides financial and leadership support to a variety of Baptist ministry partners who work in four basic platforms, each related to a particular aspect of being Baptist: 1) Theological Education; 2) News and Advocacy; 3) Network Support and Faith Formation; and 4) Long-term Mission Support. Tonight we will explore our investment in News and Advocacy with information about our Baptist ministry partners, and a presentation by our former associate pastor, Stan Wilson, who will inform us about his role with RAWtools South.

#### **The Birth of Satan: the Biblical Roots of the Evil One and Why He Won't Go Away**

February 15, 22, March 1 and 8

Satan, Lucifer, Old Scratch, Beelzebub, the Prince of Darkness. His many names evince the way the devil has captured the popular imagination like few other biblical characters. Yet much of the character we recognize was developed apart from scripture. Over these four weeks, using T.J. Wray and Gregory Mobley's fascinating book, *The Birth of Satan: Tracing the Devil's Biblical Roots*, as our guide, we will distinguish what the bible actually says from what originates from other sources. Finally, we'll talk about how we make sense of evil in the world and how we might understand the character of the adversary today.

#### **Northminster Trivia Night**

May 3

More details coming soon—but expect fellowship and fun at Northminster's first Trivia Night, which will close out Adult Studies for the semester.

## **Wednesday Night Supper**

Wednesday, February 4

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

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

Menu: lasagna, spinach sauté,  
green salad, french bread and cake

Servers: Hilda Boteler, Sara Cox.

Gloria Montgomery and Susan Phillips

Cashier: George Luter

## **Northminster Essentials**

through Sunday, March 1

9:15-10:15 a.m.

Library (room opposite the main office)

If you are seeking to better understand the history and practices of the family of faith called Northminster, this is the course for you.

For questions or to sign up, please call the church office at 601-982-4703 or email Lesley at [lesley@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org).

## **Mahjong Ministry**

### **Next Hand**

Sunday, February 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

We will also play March 15, April 26 and May 17

Join us for one, some or all of the dates.

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

## **Northminster Women's Retreat**

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

### **Unrushed: Finding Sacred Rest**

On this year's retreat, we will explore the gift of sabbath as a sacred unhurried way of being. We'll gather for a learning session on Saturday morning, vespers service and games on Saturday night, and a learning session and worship service mid-day on Sunday. The remaining time will be open for you to explore the gifts of sabbath. We'll have optional sessions on walking the labyrinth, creating art, practicing gentle movement, and settling into quiet meditation, and you will be able to find whatever holy rhythm suits your needs. As always, we'll laugh together, rest together, and savor plenty of good snacks along the way!

Cost: \$200 per person; \$250 for a single room  
(Cost should never keep someone from attending. If there is a need for a scholarship, please contact Lesley Ratcliff.)

Questions or to register? Contact Lesley Ratcliff at  
[lesley@northminsterbaptist.org](mailto:lesley@northminsterbaptist.org) or 601-927-0259.

Please register by February 11.

### **Save the Date**

#### **Protection Policy Training**

for all who volunteer with children, youth or vulnerable adults

Sunday, March 22, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

————— **YOUTH NEWS** —————

**Youth Sunday School**

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

**Youth Sunday Nights**

5:00-6:30 p.m.

**Stewminster Basketball**

Seventh and eighth grade boys from Northminster and Stewpot will meet to play basketball at Madison Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m., each Thursday through February 12, with playoffs to come.

**Youth Sunday & Dessert Auction**

February 8

Youth will lead worship and teach Sunday school, followed by a church-wide luncheon and dessert auction to raise money to support our ministry. If you would like to donate a dessert for the auction, contact Jennifer Stribling at 601-209-2223 or [jenniferstribling@me.com](mailto:jenniferstribling@me.com).

**Superbowl Party**

February 8 at 5:00 p.m.

**Spring Break Trip to Dauphin Island, AL**

March 8-11

Cost: \$200

Get away from the semester and join us at the beach! Space is limited, so reserve your spot online or in the church office.

————— **CHILDREN'S NEWS** —————

**Atrium & Four5Six**

tonight at 5:00 p.m.

**Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule**

February 1: Firecrackers—Jane Claire & Nason Williams  
Sparklers—Kim & Kyle Watson

February 8: Chapel Coordinators—Elizabeth & Percy Quinn  
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Lida & Gregg  
Caraway

February 15: Firecrackers—Blair & Ryder Taff  
Sparklers—Amanda & Trey Clark

February 22: Firecrackers—Anne & Parker Snow  
Sparklers—Kelly & Josh Guyton

### **Girls' and Guys' Scavenger Hunts**

Today, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

First through sixth graders are invited to join us for a scavenger hunt and a snack. We'll meet at the children's area to start the hunts. See Lesley Ratcliff after worship if you'd like to participate.

### **Parents' Night Out**

Friday, February 6, 2026, 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, February 4. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive or provide a brown-bag supper.

### **Children's Birthday Gathering**

Tuesday, February 10, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

### **Save the Date**

Bible Camp 2026

July 24—26

## **THE CHURCH IN SERVICE**

### **Sunday, February 1**

- 9:15 a.m. Northminster Essentials, L/CR
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion
- 3:30 p.m. Girls' & Guys' Scavenger Hunts
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir Ensemble
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six
- 5:00 p.m. Youth, YH
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

### **Monday, February 2**

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

### **Tuesday, February 3**

- 2:00 p.m. Senior Adult Ministries Cmte., L/CR
- 5:30 p.m. Building Maintenance Cmte., L/CR

### **Wednesday, February 4**

- 3:00 p.m. Chaminade Music Concert
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper, GH
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, February 5**

- 7:00 p.m. Stewminster Basketball

### **Friday, February 6**

- 6:00 p.m. Parents' Night Out
- 6:15 p.m. Beth Israel Shabbat Service, Sanctuary

### **Saturday, February 7**

- 9:00 a.m. Beth Israel Shabbat Service, Chapel
- 10:45 a.m. Beth Israel Torah Study, Chapel

## **THE CHURCH IN SERVICE-continued**

### **Sunday, February 8**

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

9:15 a.m. Northminster Essentials, L/CR

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Youth Sunday

11:30 a.m. Youth Dessert Auction, GH

5:00 p.m. Youth Super Bowl Party, YH

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

The Deacon of the Week is Elizabeth Boone.  
The Caregiving Chair for February is Annette Hitt.  
The Caregiving Coordinators for February are Faye Barham  
and Helen Turner.  
The Caregiver of the Week is Brooks Elfert.  
The Liturgist for February is Holly Wiggs.  
The flowers for February are provided by Jill Buckley,  
Kathryn Sams, Lesley Mosby and Lawana McLennan.  
The Usher Captain for February is Nancy Smith.

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

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