



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Lent invites us to contemplate the connections between winter and spring, death and resurrection, and how self-denial makes our hearts fertile growing places for the seeds of faith.

—Danielle Hitchen
Sacred Seasons

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 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

Focused stillness creates an empty space in which to test the rough edges of experience and to discover wider perspectives...Without cultivating times of silence and solitude, we cannot create an environment of obedient listening in which to hearken to God's voice.

—Thomas R. Hawkins
A Life That Becomes the Gospel

The Prelude "A Lenten Prelude" Callahan

The Call to Worship Dubois

"Christ, We Do All Adore Thee"

Christ, we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee forever.
For on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.

The Procession of the Lenten Banner Lyla Witt May

*The Processional Hymn No. 701 *BEECHER*

"God Is Here!"

*The Litany of Praise Valerie Linn

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We are beloved children of God,
but we stumble in the wilderness.

**People: We are beloved children of God,
and we do not walk alone.**

Leader: We are distracted by the need for more;
People: The word of God satisfies our deepest hunger.
Leader: We serve in hopes of gaining favor;
People: The love of God is unconditional.
Leader: We seek control and power;
People: The kingdom of God is found in humble service.
All: We are beloved children of God.
We do not walk alone.

*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

Valerie Linn

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Lessons

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32

Lesley Ratcliff

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

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Lord, on the way to goodness, when we stumble, hold us; when we fall, lift us up; when we are hard pressed by evil, deliver us; when we turn from what is good, turn us back and bring us at last to your glory.

—Mary Batchelor
Lion Prayer Collection

The Confession

Geoff Davidson

Leader: People of God, let us call to mind the faithfulness and mercy of God and confess our sins, first in the silence of our own hearts and then together.

Silence is kept

Leader: We have wounded your love.

People: O God, heal us.

Leader: We stumble in the darkness.

People: Light of the world, transfigure us.

Leader: We forget that we are your home.

People: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Silence is kept

Leader: Lord our God,

All: In our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgment; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: With the apostle Paul, we are convinced

All: That neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: May the mercy of God forgive us, strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us safe in life eternal; through Jesus Christ, we pray.

All: Amen.

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. 502

NEW BRITAIN

“Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound”

*The Offertory Prayer

Valerie Linn

The Offertory

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Callahan

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Coker

Sybil Cheesman, *flute*

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.

The Sermon

Scott Dickison

“The Beginning of Desire Is not to Have”

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

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn No. 697

ST. PETER

“In Christ There Is no East or West”

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Postlude “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Manz

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, page 2

Psalm 32, page 440

Matthew 4:1-11, page 785

Today is the first Sunday in Lent. Lent is the season in which we anticipate Jesus’ final trip to Jerusalem and the self-giving nature of love shown in his Passion and death. The season begins with Ash Wednesday and extends for forty weekdays through Saturday of Holy Week. Sundays are excluded from Lent, being regarded as feast days in the midst of the forty-day fast. Because Lent is the most strongly penitential season of the year, the liturgical color is purple.

Our Lenten banner is a visual symbol of Christ’s sacrifice. The images of the cross, thorns, and spear remind us of his agony on our behalf. The pattern is broken, reminding us of the power of the cross, the disruption of evil, and a life broken for us. The purple recalls the penitential color of Lent and the red reminds us of sacrifice.

The banner was designed and made by a Northminster member.

In observance of the Lenten season, only candles and the Bible will be placed on the communion table, reminding us of this prayerful Lenten journey, until the grace of Easter blooms again.

The Northminster Flower Committee

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

Christian sympathy is extended to John and Carol Palmer on the death of John's brother, Jimmy Palmer.

Lyllian McMullan is hospitalized at Baptist.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer	Virginia Hamilton	Libby McGee
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.

**Caregiving will not meet Monday, February 23;
it will resume Monday, March 2.**

Pastoral Care Number

To alert the ministers of a pastoral care need,
please call 601-980-1002.

Brumfield House

February 26:	Bryan Bridges
March 5:	Bo Allen
March 12:	Jeff Wilson
March 19:	Bill Thompson
March 26:	Mike Peters

Meals on Wheels

Monday, February 23

Cooks:

Amy Moremen

TBA

Faye Barham

Drivers:

Rt. 1: Luke Dove & Bob Hardin

Rt. 2: Keith Davis &
James Bethea

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Lenten Offering

The Worship and Music Committee offers *A Lenten Journey 2026* daily devotional guide for meditation and reflection during this season of Lent. We hope that the creative expressions and offerings by members and friends of Northminster will encourage and enhance your personal worship during this season of spiritual preparation. Copies are available throughout the church for you to take and share.

Mahjong Ministry

Next Hands

March 15, April 26 and May 17
at 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

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.

Adult Studies

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

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

Tonight and March 1, 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.

Baptist Distinctives: An Exploration of Denominational Relations

April 19, 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.

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 25

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

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

Menu: smoked pork butt, potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw, cornbread and banana pudding

Servers: Cade Montague, Gloria Montgomery,
Amy Moremen and Carol Taff

Cashier: George Luter

The Great Hall Series

The Great Hall Series is a new offering that will meet in the Great Hall during the Sunday School hour for three or four sessions a year. These sessions are short-term, stand-alone presentations open to all. During a session, some Sunday School classes will meet as usual, while others will pause to join the group in the Great Hall. This format allows flexibility for both classes and individuals, while offering a shared learning opportunity several times during the year. Our first session began this morning and extends over the six Sundays of Lent.

Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent

Sundays through March 29

The word “sabbath” comes from the Hebrew word for “to stop,” and in practice involves the deliberate pause, or laying aside, of secondary concerns to make room for primary ones. This ancient biblical rhythm pro-

vides a beautiful backdrop for our observance of Lent, as we reorient our lives toward the cross and the miracle and mystery of resurrection. During the Sundays of Lent, Scott will lead a study pairing scripture with poems by Wendell Berry, who has devoted many Sundays to writing "sabbath poetry," reflecting on this holy ideal. Join us for discussion, reflection, renewal, and breakfast!

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.)

While the deadline to sign up has passed, if you would still like to attend, please email Lesley Ratcliff at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org.

Two Opportunities for Lenten Crafting Senior Connections for All Senior Adults

Senior Connections, sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministries Committee, is a new interactive opportunity for senior adults at Northminster to build relationships and community. Open to all senior adults, each monthly activity is self-contained and completed at each meeting with topics focused on the interests of senior adults.

Please join us on Tuesday, March 3, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Great Hall for the first Senior Connections meeting which will feature a Lenten creative activity led by Amy Williams. In addition to the art project with clay crosses and other Lenten symbols, there will be a devotional reflection as well as light refreshments. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required.

Please email Marty Harper at marty@northminsterbaptist.org to sign up.

Lenten Women's Gathering

Tuesday, March 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Women of all ages are invited to an evening of creativity, connection, and reflection during the season of Lent. We will gather in the Great Hall to create clay crosses or other Lenten symbols under the guidance of Amy Williams.

The evening will include a light supper, a brief Lenten reflection, and time for meaningful conversation and fellowship.

There is no cost to attend but registration is requested so we can prepare supplies and supper. Please contact Lesley Ratcliff at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org to sign up.

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. in the Great Hall

————— 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 tonight for dinner, games, fellowship and a lesson.

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.

Stewpot

Saturday, April 4

Liturgy of the Light

Sunday, April 12, 5:30 p.m.

Welcome Night

Sunday, April 19, 5:00 p.m.

Senior Recognition and End-of-the-Year Party

Sunday May 3

————— **CHILDREN'S NEWS** —————

Atrium & Four5Six

Today at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

- February 22: Firecrackers—Anne & Parker Snow
Sparklers—Kelly & Josh Guyton
- March 1: Chapel Coordinators—Lida & Gregg Caraway
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Miles & David Munn
- March 8: Firecrackers—Jennifer & Drew Rymer
Sparklers—Sarah & Nick Newcomb
- March 15: Firecrackers—Rebecca & Brooks Vance
Sparklers—Audrey Dickison & Matt Thames

Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, March 17, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Parents' Night Out

Friday, March 27, 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, March 25. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive or provide a brown-bag supper.

Save the Date

Bible Camp 2026

July 24-26

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, February 22

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Northminster Essentials, L/CR
- 9:15 a.m. The Great Hall Series, GH
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Committee Orientation & Lunch
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Ensemble Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium, Four5Six
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Night, YH
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

Monday, February 23

- 10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels, Adult Ed. Bldg.
- 11:30 a.m. Mark Wiggs' Visitation, GH
- 1:00 p.m. Mark Wiggs' Memorial Service
- 5:30 p.m. Wider Net Cmte., L/CR

Wednesday, February 25

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

Thursday, February 26

- 5:00 p.m. Legacy Cmte., L/CR

Friday, February 27

- 6:15 p.m. Beth Israel Shabbat

Saturday, February 28

- 9:00 a.m. Women's retreat begins

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE-continued

Sunday, March 1

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

9:15 a.m. The Great Hall Series, GH

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion

1:00 p.m. Women's retreat ends

4:00 p.m. Youth Ensemble Choir

5:00 p.m. Atrium & Four5Six

5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Night, YH

5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is George Luter.

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 Amy Finkelberg.

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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