



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Now guide me waking, and guard me
sleeping; that awake I may watch with
your eyes, and asleep, I may rest in peace.

—*The Book of Common Prayer*

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

Leader: Our Lord, who is there when we stumble and land hard in life,

People: Show us, O God, how to be a soft place to land for those in our lives.

Leader: Our Lord, who celebrates our laughter and savors our joy,

People: Help us, O God, to rejoice for one another and seek happiness for all.

All: God, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Spirit, have mercy. 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

Nora Etheridge

The Greeting

Geoff Davidson

The Lessons

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121

Geoff Davidson

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

It is at the bottom where we find grace; for like water, grace seeks the lowest place and there it pools up.

—Richard Rohr

The Confession

Scott Dickison

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

Scott Dickison

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

Nora Etheridge

The Offertory

“Beautiful Savior”

Wood

*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

John 3:1-17

Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Wondrous Love”

Nelson

Ausra Jasineviciute, *viola*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be;
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

The Sermon

“The One Who Keeps Us”

Scott Dickison

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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—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

So blessed are we, sharing a meal today.
May we recognize God’s goodness
in the thoughtful preparation,
in the delivering,
in the eating together,
savoring something that tastes like love.

—Kate Bowler
The Lives We Actually Have

*The Recessional Hymn No. 636

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

“If You Will Trust in God”

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Postlude

“Festival Trumpet Tune”

German

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Genesis 12:1-4a, page 8

Psalm 121, page 498

John 3:1-17, pages 863-864

Today is the second 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

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.

Pastoral Care Number

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

Brumfield House

March 5:	Bo Allen
March 12:	Jeff Wilson
March 19:	Bill Thompson
March 26:	Mike Peters
April 2:	Mitch Peters

Meals on Wheels

Monday, March 2

Cooks:	Drivers:
Lisa Cobb	Rt. 1: Julie & Dudley Wooley
Annette Hitt	Rt. 2: Marianna Field &
Kandy Sims	Janet Holt

Wednesday, March 18

Cooks:

Elizabeth Quinn

Kathy Burkhalter

Sara Hays

Drivers:

Rt. 1: Beverly & Tim Lawrence

Rt. 2: Monica Daniels &

Carol Taff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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 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, March 4

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

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

Menu: chicken spaghetti, green beans, salad and rolls

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 provides 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!

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.

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

- 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
- March 22: Chapel Coordinators—Taylor & Justin Beard
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Ceejaye & Mitch Peters

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, March 1

- 9:15 a.m. The Great Hall Series, GH
- 9:15 a.m. Northminster Essentials, L/CR
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion
- 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, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

- 1:00 p.m. Senior Connections for Senior Adults, GH
- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Women's Gathering, GH

Wednesday, March 4

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

Friday, March 6

- 6:15 p.m. Beth Israel Shabbat

Sunday, March 8

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. The Great Hall Series, GH
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Matt Kelly.
The Caregiving Chair for March is Susan O'Mara.
The Caregiving Coordinator for March is Jean Welsh.
The Caregiver of the Week is Susan O'Mara.
The Liturgist for March is Elizabeth Quinn.
The flowers for March are provided by Leah Hendrix, Becky
Frame, Kathryn Davis, Kandy Sims and Lisa Kelly.
The Usher Captain for March 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
Facilities Manager	Greer Gunter

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