



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The place God calls you is the place where your
deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

—Frederick Buechner

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

People: We shall seek to please God with hands and words that lift each other up into the light.

Leader: For God's light shines on all of us and calls us to righteousness.

All: We strive to answer this calling to truth and love.
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

Evie Moremen

The Greeting

Geoff Davidson

The Lessons

I Samuel 16:1-13
Ephesians 5:8-14

Geoff Davidson

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will be many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.

—Henri Nouwen

The Confession

Lesley Ratcliff

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

Lesley Ratcliff

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. 212

WONDROUS LOVE

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

*The Offertory Prayer

Evie Moremen

The Offertory

“Were You There?”

Wells

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 9:1-41

Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Larkin

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
‘Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation,
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

The Sermon

Scott Dickison

“Surely We Are Not Blind, Are We?”

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

Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work.

—William Arthur Ward

*The Recessional Hymn No. 578 *BEACH SPRING*

“Come, All Christians, Be Committed”

*The Benediction *Scott Dickison*

*The Postlude “In Death’s Strong Grasp the Savior Lay” *Bach*

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

I Samuel 16:1-13, pages 226-227

Ephesians 5:8-14, pages 951-952

John 9:1-41, pages 871-872

Today is the fourth 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

The Place Where We Are Right

By Yehuda Amichai, translated from the Hebrew by Stephen Mitchell

From the place where we are right
flowers will never grow
in the spring.

The place where we are right
is hard and trampled
like a yard.

But doubts and loves
dig up the world
like a mole, a plow.
And a whisper will be heard in the place
where the ruined
house once stood.

The rose on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Everett Elizabeth Warren. The proud parents are Matt and Melissa Warren.

———— 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

Congratulations to Jeff and Cathy Davis on the birth of their grandson, James Jefferson Davis, IV. The proud parents are Tripp and Jessica Davis.

Congratulations to Sarah Love on the birth of her grandson Liam Robert Love. The proud parents are Will and Cynthia Love.

Congratulations to Matt and Melissa Warren on the birth of their daughter Everett Elizabeth Warren. Everett is also welcomed by Valerie Linn, Luke Warren, and Jake, Jean and Harriet Warren.

Lyllian McMullan is in rehab at Brandon Court.

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 19:	Bill Thompson
March 26:	Mike Peters
April 2:	Mitch Peters
April 9:	Joe Sims

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, March 18

Cooks:	Drivers:
Elizabeth Quinn	Rt. 1: Beverly & Tim Lawrence
Kathy Burkhalter	Rt. 2: Monica Daniels &
Sara Hays	Carol Taff

Monday, March 23

Cooks:	Drivers:
Becky Wooley	Rt. 1: Susan & Charles O'Mara
Ann Calhoon	Rt. 2: Zina & Steve Bass
Kelly Hicks	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

Facilities Repairs and Maintenance

To help us keep our facilities in good condition, please email facilities@northminsterbaptist.org if you notice anything that needs repair or maintenance—no matter how big or small.

Greer Gunter, Northminster's Facilities Manager, and the Building Maintenance Committee will use these emails to log requests, follow up on them, and identify any recurring problems so they can be addressed efficiently.

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday, March 18

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

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

Menu: chicken and sausage jambalaya and rice,
roasted asparagus, salad, roll and key lime pie

Servers: Jennifer Carter, Amy Moremen,
Susan Phillips and Judy Rankin

Cashier: George Luter

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

Palm Cross Making and the Palm Sunday Processional

On **March 26 at 9:00 a.m.**, anyone who would like to help make Palm Crosses is invited to join the Flower Committee in the Great Hall. Please bring a pair of scissors. No previous experience required!

On **March 29** children are invited to participate in waving palms for the processional at the 10:30 worship service. Please meet in the children's area by 10:15 to line up.

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!

Join Us For

Liturgy of the Light

A child-led worship service for all.

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

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.

————— **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.

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
tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

- March 15: Firecrackers—Rebecca & Brooks Vance
Sparklers—Audrey Dickison & Matt Thames
- March 22: Chapel Coordinators—Taylor & Justin Beard
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Ceejaye &
Mitch Peters
- March 29: Firecrackers—Mary Hastings & Gray Samson
Sparklers—Sheri & Clint Moody

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.

First—Sixth Grade

Guys vs Girls

Game Day

Sunday, April 19, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Contact Lesley at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org to sign up.

Save the Date

Bible Camp 2026

July 24-26

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, March 15

- 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
- 2:30 p.m. Mahjong, GH
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Ensemble Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium & Four5Six
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Night
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

Monday, March 16

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

Tuesday, March 17

- 3:00 p.m. Children's Birthday Gathering, GH
- 4:30 p.m. Cancer Support, L/CR
- 5:30 p.m. Deacon Nominating Cmte., Room 204

Wednesday, March 18

- 8:30 a.m. Enneagram, Adult Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper, GH
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 20

- 6:15 p.m. Beth Israel Shabbat Service

Sunday, March 22

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Ensemble Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Policy Protection Training, GH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Dabbs Massey.
The Caregiving Chair for March is Susan O'Mara.
The Caregiving Coordinator for March is Jean Welsh.
The Caregivers of the Week are Faye Barham and Helen Turner.
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

Northminster Baptist Church
3955 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
601-982-4703
www.northminsterbaptist.org