



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The earth never tires;
The earth is rude, silent, incomprehensible at first—
Nature is rude and incomprehensible at first;
Be not discouraged—keep on—there are divine things,
well envelop'd;
I swear to you there are divine things more beautiful
than words can tell.

—Walt Whitman
Song of the Open Road

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

Leader: We shall remember the goodness of our God who is with us in the desert;

People: Let us listen for God's voice even in the darkest times.

All: Let us always praise our God with our words, deeds, and lives. 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

Annette Hitt

The Greeting

Marty Harper

The Lessons

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95

Marty Harper

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity and resurrecting us from the graves we dig for ourselves through our violence, our lies, and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over.

—Nadia Bolz-Weber

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. 84

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

*The Offertory Prayer

Annette Hitt

The Offertory

“Ah, Jesus Dear”

Brahms

*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 4:5-15

Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

Young

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and pow’r:
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more.

Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him:
This He gives you, this He gives you;
‘Tis the Spirit’s glimmering beam.

Saints and angels, joined in concert,
Sing the praises of the Lamb;
While the blissful seats of heaven
Sweetly echo with His name:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Sinners here may do the same.

The Sermon

“Is the Lord Among Us or Not?”

Scott Dickison

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

I am living today as someone I had not yet become yesterday and tonight I will borrow only pieces of who I am today to carry with me to tomorrow.

—Andrea Gibson

*The Recessional Hymn No. 60 FAITHFULNESS

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*The Benediction Scott Dickison

*The Postlude “See the Lord of Light and Life” Bach

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Exodus 17:1-7, page 56

Psalm 95, page 479

John 4:5-15, pages 864-865

Today is the third 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 in rehab at Brandon Court.

David Raddin 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 12:	Jeff Wilson
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:

Becky Wooley
Ann Calhoon
Kelly Hicks

Drivers:

Rt. 1: Susan & Charles O'Mara
Rt. 2: Zina & Steve Bass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no Sunday night activities tonight.

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**

March 15

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.

No Wednesday Night Supper March 11 (Spring Break)

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!

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.

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.

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

Join Us For

Liturgy of the Light

A child-led worship service for all.
Sunday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m.

————— **YOUTH NEWS** —————

Youth Sunday School

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

**No youth activities tonight due to Spring Break.
We will resume on Sunday, March 15.**

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
will not meet tonight.

We will resume Sunday,
March 15 at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

- 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.

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 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
- 3:30 p.m. Worship & Music Sub-Cmte., L/CR

Monday, March 9

- 8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR
- 5:30 p.m. Assoc. Pastor Seach Cmte., L/CR

Tuesday, March 10

- 2:00 p.m. Senior Adult Ministries Cmte., L/CR

Wednesday, March 11

- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 13

- 6:15 p.m. Beth Israel Shabbat 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, YH
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies, GH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Rob Hill.
The Caregiving Chair for March is Susan O'Mara.
The Caregiving Coordinator for March is Jean Welsh.
The Caregivers of the Week are Laine and Bob Hardin.
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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