



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

“You were never separate, but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love you, ‘I am with you and no one is against you.’”

—Kontakian of the Ascension
Orthodox Liturgical Hymn

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP

Ascension Sunday

May 17, 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

"What do we do when Jesus leaves us? What do we do when any important person leaves us? We can be paralyzed, depressed, or scared. We can sit nervously in the boat, waiting for a captain to show up and lead us. We can sit there in the boat with the sail still tied, flapping in the harbor. Or we can push off and open our sail to allow the wind of the Spirit to explode and send us sailing."

—Henri Nouwen

The Prelude "Lyric Andante" Reger

The Call to Worship "Sing Ye to the Lord" Titcomb

Sing ye, sing ye, sing ye to the Lord
who ascended, who ascended to the
heav'n of heav'n, to the sun rising.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The Procession of the Easter Banner Jimmy O'Beirne

*The Processional Hymn No. 108 *MADRID*

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

*The Litany of Praise Amelia Champion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the Lord the most high is awesome.

People: We shout to you Lord, for everything you do is amazing.

Leader: We worship you with great joy, for you put your power to work in Christ when you raised Christ from the dead; and when Christ ascended to heaven, you gave Christ a name that is above every name.

All: We do not cease to give thanks to you, Almighty God, for we remember your good works in Christ.

*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

Evelyn Sims

The Greeting

Ellen Ruth Stancill

The Lessons

Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23

Sybil Frame
Adella Quinn

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE MENTOR PROGRAM

The Litany of Blessing

Lesley Ratcliff

Pastor: The young people before us today are at a turning point in their lives. They are leaving the path of childhood and entering the path of young adulthood.

Sixth Graders: We are ready for the journey.

Mentors: As representatives of your family of faith, we are faithful witnesses of your journey, and we seek to encourage and support you.

Congregation and Mentors:

Your family of faith will be with you every step of the way. May our presence remind you of God’s love for you and God’s call upon your lives.

Sixth Graders: We will remember and be true to God’s love and calling.

Congregation and Mentors:

May God continue to bless your journey as you seek God’s path. May God grant us all the grace, vision, and strength to walk in the light of Christ’s love.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of the God’s glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of God’s power for us who believe, according to the working of God’s great power.

—Ephesians 1:17-19

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

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. 557

SCOTT

“Open My Eyes, That I May See ”

The Offertory Anthem

“Ascension”

Coker

What shade of blue the open sky,
when to the clouds they saw him rise,
was lost, then found, then lost again?
Christ above must go; we in life must stay.

The One who'd risen from the tomb
and made the lonely grave a womb,
the world to come now to begin.
Christ above must go; we in life must stay.

But here and now is where we live,
this only earth our lives to give,
Kingdom of God among, within.
Christ above must go; we in life must stay.

So grounded firmly in this gift,
To God above our praises lift,
world without end, amen, amen.
Christ above must go; we in life must stay.

—Scott Dickison

Cheryl Coker, *soprano*
Ausra Jasineviciute, *viola*

*The Offertory Prayer

Caroline Samuels

**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

Luke 24:44-53

Billy Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Heaven’s Door: An Easter Carol”

Gifford

As Mary walked to the tomb that day, an angel rolled the stone away.
“Have no fear,” the angel said, “your Lord is risen from the dead.”
Sing “Alleluia, God be praised; Jesus from the tomb is raised.”
Sing alleluias evermore; Love has opened heaven’s door.

The Roman soldiers grew faint with fear to see a mighty angel appear.
The earth, it shook with a quaking sound, and all of the soldiers hit
the ground.

Sing “Alleluia, God be praised; Jesus from the tomb is raised.”
Sing alleluias evermore; Love has opened heaven’s door.

When Peter entered the tomb with John, they both could see that
Jesus was gone.

The cloth He wore was there instead, for Christ had risen from the
dead.

Sing “Alleluia, God be praised; Jesus from the tomb is raised.”
Sing alleluias evermore; Love has opened heaven’s door.

Then off they ran to tell the story: God had raised His son to glory.
“Go deliver the news,” they said, “that Christ is risen from the dead.”
Sing “Alleluia, God be praised; Jesus from the tomb is raised.”
Sing alleluias evermore; Love has opened heaven’s door.

The Sermon

“What It Means to Stay”

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

Dear Jesus, right before your Ascension into Heaven you told your disciples to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit. May I similarly be inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed, according to your will for me. And may I do so prudently and joyfully, with your help, your guidance and your grace! And remembering this glorious event, help me to seek what is above, Heaven, where you are seated at the right hand of God the Father!

—Deb DeRio

*The Recessional Hymn No. 593 *GIFT OF LOVE*

“The Gift of Love”

*The Benediction Scott Dickison

*The Postlude “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Pethel

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Psalm 47, page 450
Ephesians 1:15-23, page 949
Luke 24:44-53, page 861

Today is Ascension Sunday, or the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide. Our Easter banner, overlaying the Lenten banner, is used to celebrate the Easter season and signify the triumph of Christ's resurrection and power over death. It is used during Eastertide, the six Sundays following Easter.

The banner bears in gold-colored silk the essential symbol of Christianity, the cross, in its rays of glory, appropriate to the Easter season. Formerly a symbol of shame, the cross has been transformed into the ultimate symbol of hope and salvation for all humankind. The seasonal color for Easter is white, and the background color of the banner can be interpreted as white fractured into many of pure white's components. The banner's pale colors represent the purity and divinity of Christ. In the background are the rays of glory of the cross. The rays leading from the cross remind us of a power that rises above defeat, a power that radiates forth affecting the lives it touches. Symbolically, the entire banner overlaps a banner of purple, the color for Lent. This juxtaposition reminds us of the historical connection of the two seasons—Lent and Easter—but leaves no doubt as to the successor.

The banner was designed and made by a Northminster member.

Mentor Sunday

For six Sunday mornings, the sixth graders and their adult mentors have explored some of the basic tenets of our faith, including topics such as worship, baptism, communion, youth discipleship, prayer, and other-mindedness. These conversations have been guided by lay leaders and our pastoral staff.

The adult mentors listed below have served as witnesses and have represented this community of faith as these sixth graders have prepared for their graduation from the children's department to the youth house. This Sunday the sixth graders have prepared our liturgy and led us in worship. This is a Sunday to celebrate and bless our sixth graders.

Sixth Graders

Amelia Champion
Billy Dickison
Sybil Frame
Ann Arrington Long
Evans Maxwell
Jimmy O'Beirne
Adella Quinn
Caroline Samuels
Evelyn Sims
Ellen Ruth Stancill
Sadie Veazey

Mentors

Jane Claire Williams & Dana Wilson
Steve Bass
Leah Hendrix
Courtney Denton
Smith Boykin
Blakely Fender
Jennifer Stribling
Sandra Triplett
Amanda Clark
M'lee Williams
Dabbs Massey

Cover Meditation offered by Sadie Veazey
Meditation of Preparation offered by Ann Arrington Long
Litany of Praise offered by Amelia Champion
Meditation of Confession offered by Billy Dickison
Time of Response offered by Evans Maxwell

———— 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 Charlotte Robinson, a member of Northminster since 1997. Christian sympathy is extended to all of Charlotte's family and friends.

Misti Crisler is hospitalized at UAB Hospital in Birmingham.
Richard Joiner is recovering at home.
Amy Finkelberg is recovering at home.
Salena Fortenberry is in rehab at Highland Home.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer

Virginia Hamilton

Libby McGee

Carla Holt

Lyllian McMullan

Sue Edwards

Beth Israel Congregation

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

May 21

Kelly Williams, Jr.

May 28

Scott Wilson

June 4

Mike Peters

June 11

Jeff Wilson

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, May 20

Cooks:

Carolyn McIntyre

Becky Wooley

Shari Culver

Drivers:

Rt. 1: Hilda & Bob Boteler

Rt. 2: Carol Taff & Beverly

Raddin

———— ANNOUNCEMENTS ————

Happy Anniversary!

We give thanks for Geoff Davidson, Associate Pastor for Students, on the occasion of his one-year anniversary at Northminster. Thank you, Geoff!

Mom's Night Out

Thursday, June 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Managing the Motherload:

How to stop beating yourself up no matter what you do!

Led by Katie Linn

Licensed clinical social worker serving women
in their transition to and through motherhood

Sponsored by Northminster Baptist Church

Lida Caraway's house
4375 Brook Drive, Jackson

Scan here to register:



Short Stories by Jesus

A Summer Bible Study

Tuesdays at noon, beginning June 9 in the Great Hall
(continuing June 16, June 23, July 14, July 21 and July 28)

Lunch: \$10

The parables of Jesus are among the most well-known and beloved passages from scripture. In these pithy, confounding stories and images, Jesus flips our conventions on their head to illuminate the mystery and wonder of the Kingdom of God.

Over these six weeks, we will take an extended look at some of these parables, using Amy-Jill Levine's beautiful and provocative book, *Short Stories by Jesus*, as a conversation partner. In addition to being a premier New Testament scholar, Levine is also a practicing Orthodox Jew. Her unique perspective often flips our conventional readings of these stories on their head, helping us to hear them again for the first time. This will be our aim as we read again together these stories that are often as peculiar and surprising as they are beloved.

Update from Northminster Communications Committee

Dear Northminster,

We continue to roll out new tools to enhance our communications at the church. In the next few days, we will launch our new church website. While it will be found at the same address, www.northminsterbaptist.org, it will be an entirely new site.

This website will be the hub of our communications, with an integrated calendar of events, and helpful, shareable information about what's happening at the church. In addition to keeping us better connected, we hope it will also serve as a vibrant reflection of Northminster to our wider community.

Those who stream our services will especially benefit from this refresh. Active broadcasts, previous services, sermon transcripts, and worship bulletins will all be available together directly on our website in a new user-friendly format.

Be on the lookout for an email that will include an address you can save to your computer, smart TV, or other device you use to stream our services. That address will take you directly to our streaming page.

If you've been streaming from the Northminster App on Roku, Fire TV Stick, or a smart TV, this app will no longer work once we switch to the new website. You will need to either access the website on your smart TV or "cast" it from your phone or iPad.

If you would like technical assistance to make this switch (we'll come to you!), please reach out to the church office.

This major project was born of the long-range plan and has taken a great deal of work from our communications committee and church

staff in partnership with The Ramey Agency. We're excited for you to see this undertaking come to fruition.

Please continue downloading the new directory app and find one of our photographers in the courtyard after worship to take a new directory photo!

**Directory Photos Taken in the Courtyard
Following Worship on the Sundays in May and June**

As we move to our new digital directory, you are invited to either upload your own photos to your profile or have a picture taken in the courtyard each of the coming Sundays.

To download the app, find the recent email sent by “Church Harmony,” which includes a unique login and password. Or, reach out to Geoff Davidson at geoff@northminsterbaptist.org.

———— YOUTH NEWS ————

Youth Sunday School

Join us at 9:15 a.m. There will be donuts and good conversation.

Stewpot

Saturday, June 6, 9:00 a.m.

We prepare and serve lunch for our neighbors at Stewpot on the first Saturday of every other month. Volunteers meet at Northminster before going together to cook and serve.

Please contact Geoff with questions or to let him know if you can join us.

———— CHILDREN'S NEWS ————

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

- May 17: Firecrackers—Dana & Scott Wilson
Sparklers—Kim & Kyle Watson
- May 24: Firecrackers—Elizabeth & Percy Quinn
Sparklers—Caroline & Kirk Sims
- May 31: Chapel Coordinators—Mary Ellen & Jeff Stancill
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Blair & Ryder Taff

Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, June 16, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Save the Date!

**Crowded Table
Children's Bible Camp**

July 24th-26th

Friday 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Contact Sandra Triplett at sandratriplett23@gmail.com
or 601-278-3817 with questions.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, May 17

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Committee on Committees, Adult Ed.
- 9:15 a.m. Mentor Program, L/CR
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Mentor Lunch, GH
- 2:30 p.m. Mahjong, GH
- 6:45 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, L/CR

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

- 4:30 p.m. Cancer Support, L/CR

Wednesday, May 20

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

Friday, May 22

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

Sunday, May 24

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Bill Thompson.

The Caregiving Chair for May is Susan O'Mara.

The Caregiving Coordinator for May is Steve Godbold.

The Caregiver of the Week is Jean Welsh.

The Liturgist for May is Amy Williams.

The flowers for May are provided by Lesley Mosby,

Jane Claire Williams, Lawanna McLennan, Kathryn Sams
and Becky Frame.

The Usher Captain for May is Dawn Warrington.

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
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