



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

— John 8:32

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 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

Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God,
And from a sincere heart, let us love one another.
The love of Christ.

—Ubi Caritas
Translation by Timothy Coker

The Prelude “’Tis the Gift to Be Simple” Powell

The Spoken Call to Worship Marty Harper

*The Processional Hymn No. 77 *LOBE DEN HERREN*
“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

*The Litany of Praise Jo Ann Welch

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Lord is good to all and has compassion on all
creation.

People: **The Lord is trustworthy in every promise and faithful at all times.**

Leader: The Lord is righteous in every way and faithful at all times.

People: **The Lord is near to us when we call in truth.**

Leader: The Lord fulfills our desires. God hears our cries and saves us.

All: **My mouth will speak in praise to the Lord. Let every creature praise God's holy name forever and ever.**

*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

Jo Ann Welch

The Greeting

Geoff Davidson

The Lessons

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Romans 7:15-25a

Geoff Davidson

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Nothing teaches us the preciousness of our Creator as learning the emptiness of everything else.

—Charles Spurgeon

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Marty Harper

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

Jo Ann Welch

The Offertory

“Jesus, Lead Thou On”

Manz

*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Be Thou My Vision”

Trenney

Shirley Sanders Foster, *soprano*
Bonnie Brown, *violin*

The Sermon

“The Freedom to Follow”

Lesley Ratcliff

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Passing of the Peace

The Call to the Table

Lesley Ratcliff

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 congregation is invited to come forward by the center aisle, receive the bread, dip it into the cup, 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 with the pastors at the communion table.

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

To participate in the Eucharist is to live inside God's imagination. It is to be caught up into what is really real, the body of Christ.

—Walter Bruggemann

*The Recessional Hymn No. 60

FAITHFULNESS

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*The Benediction

Lesley Ratcliff

*The Postlude

"Jubilate"

Young

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67, pages 17-18

Romans 7:15-25a, page 918

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30, page 792

Today is the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. The season after Pentecost celebrates the existence of the church and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world. The liturgical color is green, symbolic of the church's growth and mission. The Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9, Revelation 22:1-2), which rises above the baptistry and is woven into our paraments, underscores this liturgical season's emphasis on the living, growing Kingdom of God.

Communion and Children

Communion Sundays are special times of worship at Northminster, and we want all our children to feel as included as possible. It has been a long-standing tradition at Northminster that each family will decide whether or not non-baptized children can receive Communion. Please know that children who have not yet been baptized and whose families decide that they need to wait to receive Communion can still come

forward to receive a blessing from the deacons who are serving Communion. *To signify that they wish to receive the blessing but not Communion, these children simply need to cross their arms over their chests, as if in prayer, when they approach a deacon who is serving the bread.* Hopefully, this option will provide non-baptized children who do not partake in Communion a way to more fully participate in the worship life of our faith community. Jesus Christ said, “Let the little children come to me.” Here at Northminster, our desire is to be as welcoming of children as is the Savior we follow.

———— 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

Kitty Rushing is receiving care at Methodist Rehab.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer	Virginia Hamilton	Libby McGee
Carla Holt	Lyllian McMullan	Sue Edwards
Richard Poole	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.

The Caregiving Committee will not meet Monday, July 6.

Pastoral Care Number

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

Brumfield House

July 9	Joe Sims
July 16	Matt Kelly
July 23	Scott Wilson
July 30	Kirk Sims

Meals on Wheels

Monday, July 6

Cooks:	Drivers:
Rebecca Starling	Rt. 1: James Bethea &
Amanda Milam	John Dawson
Peggy Brady	Rt. 2: Cathy & Jeff Davis

———— ANNOUNCEMENTS ————

Happy Anniversary!

We give thanks for Jan McDonnieal-Wilson, Receptionist/Secretary, on the occasion of her twenty-year anniversary at Northminster. Thank you, Jan!

GREAT HALL SERIES: A Sampling of Sunday School

July 12, 19 and 26

The Great Hall Series offers short-term, stand-alone presentations during the Sunday School hour that are open to all. During these sessions, 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.

During this summer's Great Hall Series, six of our Adult Sunday School classes will provide a glimpse into their life together by having a teacher give a brief, fifteen-minute lesson based on one of the day's lectionary passages. Three classes will present on July 12 and three more on July

19. Then, on July 26, representatives from all our Adult Sunday School classes will gather for a panel discussion and question-and-answer session. Whether you are looking for a class for the first time, considering a change or simply curious about what happens in other Sunday School classes, this series offers an opportunity to learn more about the many ways Northminster studies, questions and grows together through Sunday School.

Short Stories by Jesus

A Summer Bible Study

Tuesdays at noon in the Great Hall

Lunch: \$10

July 14: Yeast and Mustard Seeds

July 21: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

July 28: The Laborers in the Vineyard

———— YOUTH NEWS ————

Youth Sunday School

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

Second Sunday Kickback at the Youth House

July 12, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

2026-2027 Youth T-Shirts for Sale

\$17 or included in the Mystery Trip registration

Mystery One-Day Mission Trip

Saturday, July 18

Mission trips never go as you expect, so our youth are letting go of all expectations. Registration is \$20 and includes this year's youth shirt.

Swim Night & Missions Sharing at the Elferts'

Sunday, July 19, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Youth volunteering with Northminster Bible Camp

July 24-26

———— CHILDREN'S NEWS ————

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

- July 5: Chapel Coordinators—Anna & Andy Frame
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Ceejaye & Mitch Peters
- July 12: Firecrackers—Mary Hastings & Gray Samson
Sparklers—Sheri & Clint Moody

K2 Retreat at the Youth House

July 10, 6:00 p.m. – July 11, 11:00 a.m.

Our K2 Retreat is for children who will have completed kindergarten through second grade. We'll have games, bible study, a movie, crafts, a water slide, meals and a ton of fun! If your child would like to sign up, please contact Lesley Ratcliff at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or call the church office.

Splash Day

Wednesday, July 15, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Children and their families will gather in the backyard at Northminster for water slides, splash pools and sprinkler fun! Bring your swimsuit, towels and sunscreen, and we'll provide a snack supper.

Questions? Contact Lesley at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org.

Crowded Table

Children's Bible Camp 2026

July 24-26

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

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

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



Questions? Contact Sandra Triplett at sandratriplett23@gmail.com or 601-278-3817.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, July 5

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

Monday, July 6

- The church office is closed.
- 10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Friday, July 10

- 6:00 p.m. K2 Retreat begins, YH
- 6:15 p.m. Beth Israel Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 11

- 11:00 a.m. K2 Retreat ends, YH

Sunday, July 12

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Second Sunday Kickback, YH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Matt Kelly.

The Caregiving Chair for July is Susan O'Mara.

The Caregiving Coordinator for July is Kathryn Davis.

The Caregiver of the Week is Guy Parker III.

The Liturgist for today is Pam Steadman.

The Liturgists for July are Pam Steadman and Jeanne Cook.

The flowers for today are provided by Kathryn Davis.

The Usher Captain for July is Matt Kelly.

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

Northminster Baptist Church
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