



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

—Matthew 13:44-46

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 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

While the kingdom of heaven can mean the focus and aim of our life's decisions and actions and the very center of our values, it also can be considered a part of our inner being. "The paradox is that the kingdom is both that which we find within ourselves as an inner treasure, and also that which is searching to find us, who when found become something of supreme value in the eyes of God. We are the fine pearls if the kingdom can take root within us, and to such a person God gives a place of supreme value in His creation."

— John A. Sanford, *The Kingdom Within*, 40

The Prelude	"Introduction"	Peeters
The Call to Worship	"Crowded Table"	Hemby, McKenna & Carlisle

You can hold my hand when you need to let go, I can be your
mountain when you're feeling valley low,
I can be a streetlight showing you the way home,
'Cause you can hold my hand when you need to let go.
I want a house with a crowded table and a place by the fire for
everyone,
Let us take on the world while we're young and able and bring us back
together when the day is done.
If we want a garden, we're gonna have to sow the seeds plant a little
happiness, let the roots run deep,
If it's love that we give then it's love that we reap, if we want a garden

we're gonna have to sow the seeds.

Yeah, I want a house with a crowded table and a place by the fire for everyone,

Let us take on the world while we're young and able and bring us back together when the day is done.

The door is always open,

Your picture's on my wall, everyone's a little broken and everyone belongs, yeah, everyone belongs.

I want a house with a crowded table and a place by the fire for everyone

Let us take on the world while we're young and able and bring us back together when the day is done.

*The Processional Hymn No. 43

EIN' FESTE BURG

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

*The Litany of Praise

Jeanne Cook

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord and call on God's name.

People: Sing to the Lord, sing praises to God and tell of the wonderful works God has done.

Leader: Remember what God has done: the covenant with Abraham, the blessing of Isaac to have land and descendants, the promise to Jacob of Canaan as inheritance.

People: Remember what God has done! Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, yet he was not hurt. God sent him to provide food in famine. And when Jacob came to Egypt, he found not only food but family.

Leader: Remember what God has done! God sent Moses and Aaron and wrought signs and miracles to release God's people and lead them out of Egypt.

People: Remember what God has done! Cloud and fire led them, quails and manna fed them. From rock, water flowed.

All: God's people were remembered that they should keep God's commands and laws. Let us seek God's strength and presence continually. Praise ye the Lord!

—From Psalm 105

*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

Jeanne Cook

The Greeting

Marty Harper

The Lessons

Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39

Marty Harper

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

We thank you, gracious God, that you answer all who call upon your name. Make us bold to ask for your help and to persist beyond all discouragement or fear. May our faith in you transform our troubled lives into testimonies to your love and power; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—M. Enid Watson, *Touch of Holiness*

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Geoff Davidson

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. 447 LAFFERTY

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

*The Offertory Prayer Jeanne Cook

The Offertory Boyce

“Allegretto” (from Symphony No. 3)

*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 13:31-33, 44-52 Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem “Hymn of Promise” Sleeth

Marlow and Mary Alden Ratcliff, *trebles*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to
be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and
me.

From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity,
In our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

The Sermon

Scott Dickison

“The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like”

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

In Matthew 13: 31-33, the parables of the tiny mustard seed and the bit of yeast remind us that actions can come to have great impact. In 1943-1944 a little-known Assisi monk Padre Rufino Niccacci was assigned by his bishop to figure out a way to hide and save some Jews fleeing to Assisi during Nazi occupation. Through the padre's ingenuity, effort, energy, ceaseless prayer and hope, he hid increasing numbers of refugee Jews in the church's convent, monastery, and area homes. He influenced so many people to help that their actions saved 300 Jews. For his work he was honored by being named to the Righteous Gentiles (now known as Righteous Among the Nations) in 1974. His leadership, creativity and compassion were fueled by prayer and the desire to serve his “neighbors” as Jesus called us to do.

—About *While the Pope Kept Silent: Assisi and the Nazi Occupation*
by Alexander Ramati

*The Recessional Hymn No. 702

ST. THOMAS

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Postlude

“Psalm XIX”

Marcello

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Psalm 119:129-136, page 496

Romans 8:26-39, pages 919-920

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52, page 795

Today is the Ninth 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.

———— 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.



Northminster is saddened by the death of Libby McGee, a member of Northminster since 1988. Christian sympathy is extended to Stephanie and Brian Rippee, Starr and Bob Griffin, Susan and Richie Peaster, and all of Libby's family and friends.

CURRENT CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Troy Browning is recovering after surgery.

Kitty Rushing is in rehab at Highland Home.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer

Virginia Hamilton

Sue Edwards

Carla Holt

Lyllian McMullan

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

July 30

Kirk Sims

August 6

Skipper Jernigan

August 13

Mitch Peters

Meals on Wheels

Monday, July 27

Cooks:

Drivers:

Jean Welsh

Rt. 1: Luke Dove & Bob Hardin

Polly Watkins

Rt. 2: Keith Davis & James Bethea

Meals on Wheels is seeking a volunteer cook for Team 10 on Wednesdays. If you would like to help, or know someone who may be interested in serving, please contact Peggy Brady at 601-201-6242 for details.

———— ANNOUNCEMENTS ————

Backpack Blessing, Hymn Sing & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Come join us for a wonderful time of fellowship for all ages!

Short Stories by Jesus

A Summer Bible Study

Great Hall—Lunch: \$10

We will wrap up our Summer Bible Study with the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard on Tuesday, July 28th.

Weekend with Beth Israel

Friday, August 14 and Sunday, August 16

Join us as we worship and gather with our friends from Beth Israel Congregation. Scott will preach at Beth Israel's Shabbat service in the sanctuary at 6:15 pm on Friday. We will all then retreat to the Great Hall to share in a time of fellowship as part of their traditional "Oneg Shabbat," or "Sabbath delight." On Sunday, Student Rabbi Ben Russell will preach at our 10:30 am worship service.

Connection Event

Music and the Mind:

Using Music to Support Brain Health

Tuesday, August 25
1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall

Come join us for Music and the Mind Connection Event. This presentation will introduce key research findings on music and brain health. Participants will then explore mindful ways to engage with music and develop listening habits that research suggests may support overall mental well-being. Facilitator will be Dr. Tim Coker, Northminster Minister of Music.

This Connection Event is sponsored by the Senior Adult Committee but is open to all ages. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact Marty Harper
at marty@northminsterbaptist.org

———— YOUTH NEWS ————

Youth Sunday School

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

End of Summer Cookout & Senior Sendoff

Today, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Dickisons' Home

Join us for a fun night of celebrating our volunteering with Bible Camp, ending summer and sending out our seniors. Wear clothes that can get dirty and bring a towel.

Stewpot

Saturday, August 1, 9:00 a.m.

Every other month, on the first Saturday, we prepare and serve lunch for our neighbors at Stewpot. Volunteers meet at Northminster before heading over together to prepare and serve the meal.

Please contact Geoff if you have any questions or to let him know whether you can join us

———— CHILDREN'S NEWS ————

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

July 26: Bible Camp

August 2: Firecrackers—Neely & Michael McGinnis
Sparklers—Krysten & Jay Jernigan

Promotion Sunday

August 9

School is getting in gear and so are we! On August 9, children will be promoted to their next grade level in Sunday School. Children will receive a postcard with the name of their Sunday School class before Promotion Sunday, when they will be greeted at the desk in the Children's Department and walked to their new classrooms. We hope to see you there!

Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, August 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, July 26

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Bible Camp
- 9:15 a.m. Great Hall Series
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, July 27

- 8:30 a.m. Caregiving, L/CR
- 10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, July 28

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study, GH

Friday, July 31

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

Saturday, August 1

- 9:00 a.m. Youth Stewpot

Sunday, August 2

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

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Neely McGinnis.
The Caregiving Chair for July is Susan O'Mara.
The Caregiving Coordinator for July is Kathryn Davis.
The Caregiver of the Week is Patricia McClure.
The Liturgist for today is Jeanne Cook.
The Liturgists for July are Pam Steadman and Jeanne Cook.
The flowers for today are provided by Lawana McLennan.
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

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