



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

But most people, instead of acting, take refuge in theorizing; they imagine that they are philosophers and that philosophy will make them virtuous; in fact, they behave like people who listen attentively to their doctors but never do anything that their doctors tell them. But a healthy state of the soul will no more be produced by this kind of philosophizing than a healthy state of the body by this kind of medical treatment.

—Aristotle
Nicomachean Ethics

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
 August 16, 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

Attend to the matter which is before you, whether it is an opinion or an act or a word.

—Marcus Aurelius
Meditations

The Prelude

“Simple Gifts”

Manual

The Call to Worship

Yarrington

“O Be Joyful in the Lord”

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Bless the Lord!

*The Processional Hymn No. 317

OLD HUNDREDTH

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

*The Litany of Praise

Cobb Hendrix

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us

People: and make God's face to shine upon us.

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

All: **Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

—from Psalm 67

*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

Cobb Hendrix

The Greeting

Lesley Ratcliff

The Presentation of Bibles to First Graders

John Carol Clark

James Harris Jernigan

Cruise Simmons Long

Charles Wiley McGinnis

Abby Carol Munn

Carsyn Allyn Reid

Elizabeth Rose Selby

Grayce Olivia Thames

Elizabeth Virginia Triplett

Wesley Eugene Watson

Reeves Scott Wilson

Pastor: This is an exciting time for the children who are gathered before us. They have entered first grade, and many of them have also begun worshipping with us in the sanctuary for the first time.

People: **It is our privilege to make a place for them, for they belong to us, just as we all belong to God.**

Pastor: As we officially welcome our first graders to worship today, we present them with Bibles inscribed with their own names, praying that, as the Scripture is placed into their hands, so it will become written upon their hearts.

All: **Together we give thanks for the children of our**

congregation and for the Bible, both gifts from God to help us all learn and grow.

The Lessons

Genesis 45:1-15
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Lesley Ratcliff

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

We must always remember that the path does not produce the change; it only puts us in the place where the change can occur.

—Richard J. Foster
Celebration of Discipline

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. 342

ST. ANNE

“How Blest Are They Who, Fearing God”

*The Offertory Prayer

Cobb Hendrix

The Offertory

“I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills”

Wood

**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 15:10-28

Scott Dickison

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”

Gardner

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
till all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

The Sermon

Student Rabbi Benjamin Russell

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

We do not first get all the answers and then live in light of our understanding. We must rather plunge into life—meeting what we have to meet and experiencing what we have to experience—and in light of living try to understand. If insight comes at all, it will not be before, but only through and after experience.

—John Claypool
Tracks of a Fellow Struggler

*The Recessional Hymn No. 532

SLANE

“Be Thou My Vision”

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Postlude

“Tuba Tune”

Lang

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Genesis 45:1-15, page 37
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, page 599
Matthew 15:10-28, page 797

Today is the Twelfth 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.

We are delighted to welcome our friends and neighbors from Beth Israel Congregation to worship this morning, and Student Rabbi Benjamin Russell as our guest preacher. A lifelong Mississippian, Ben has been part of the Beth Israel community since 2010 and has served in synagogue leadership for over a decade, including as Cantorial Soloist since 2012. Ben is currently pursuing rabbinic ordination through ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, where his studies focus on Jewish theology, text, spirituality, and contemporary Jewish leadership.

———— 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

Troy Browning is recovering after surgery.

ONGOING CAREGIVING CONCERNS

Gorman Schaffer	Virginia Hamilton	Beth Israel Congregation
Carla Holt	Lyllian McMullan	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

August 20

Elizabeth Boone

August 27

Bryan Bridges

September 3

Mike Peters

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, August 19

Cooks:

Kathryn Davis

Jan Stewart

Amy Moremen

Drivers:

Rt. 1: Beverly & Tim Lawrence

Rt. 2: Monica Daniels &

Carol Taff

———— ANNOUNCEMENTS ————

Legacy Giving Ministry

Kickoff Luncheon

August 23, immediately following worship

Join us for lunch as we introduce Northminster's Legacy Giving Ministry. This new ministry, years in the making and a product of our most recent long-range plan, will provide a vehicle for Northminster members and friends to make lasting contributions to the church's mission and ministry. We will hear from committee members and a representative from the CBF Foundation, our partner organization in developing these funds, and provide information on how you can participate. Childcare will be provided.

**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 a 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.

Click on the QR code below to sign up. For more information contact Marty Harper at marty@northminsterbaptist.org.



**The Annual Church-Wide
Labor Day Potluck**

Sunday, September 6
No Sunday School—Lunch in the
Great Hall following worship

The Fellowship Committee will provide meat and drinks. Please bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert to serve your family, plus one more. Please bring serving utensils, and label your dishes and serving pieces.

Community Book Study

Tuesdays, September 15 and 22
11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the Great Hall
(lunch provided)

Sunday, September 27, 4:30 p.m. at Mt. Helm Baptist Church

Join us for a community book study of theologian Howard Thurman's classic work, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, hosted in partnership with Mt. Helm Baptist Church. Some books will be available in the church office for purchase for \$10 and are widely available elsewhere.

———— YOUTH NEWS ————

Youth Sunday School

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

Parent Meeting & Youth Scavenger Hunt

Today, 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Kick off the new school year with fun for our students, a look at what's coming up this year, and homemade barbecue.

Youth Sunday Nights Resume!

Sunday, August 23, 5:00 p.m. in the Youth House

———— CHILDREN'S NEWS ————

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

August 16: Chapel Coordinators—Elizabeth & Percy Quinn
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Gates & Kyle Skene

August 23: Firecrackers—Leah & Tal Hendrix
Sparklers—Laura & Patrick Taylor

August 30: Chapel Coordinators—Hart Wylie & Megan Wylie
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Neely & Michael
McGinnis

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.

Parents' Night Out

Friday, August 28, 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, August 26. Please remember to feed your children before they arrive, or provide a brown-bag supper.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, August 16

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Worship Class for First Graders, GH
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Scavenger Hunt & Parent Meeting, GH
- 6:45 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, L/CR

Monday, August 17

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

Tuesday, August 18

- 3:00 p.m. Children's Birthday Gathering, GH

Wednesday, August 19

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

Friday, August 21

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

Sunday, August 23

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Baptism
- 11:30 a.m. Legacy Giving Church-Wide Lunch, GH
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Night, YH

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Elizabeth Quinn.
The Caregiving Chair for August is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiving Coordinator for August is Annette Hitt.
The Caregiver of the Week is Carol Taff.
The Liturgist for August is Marty Kelly.
The flowers for today are provided by Kandy Sims.
The Usher Captain for August 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 Community and Missions	Masyn Evans-Clements
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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