



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

I approach the water's edge, called to follow my people into the sea. I gaze at the long line of feet traveling over dry sand between the walls of water, shuffling steady and slow to the supposed safety of the far shore.

I pause, stand aside. Will the walled water that harbors them swallow me? Is freedom really this easy—and this hard?

To leave behind all I have ever known—though marred by servitude and scarcity it has been—and stumble into the unknown blue, gambling my everything on a tongue-tied old man with a wonder-working staff and a God I barely know?

Yes, the cloud-lit darkness and the strong east wind seem to say. Freedom is this easy—and this hard. And so, without a backward glance, I breathe deep the night air, step back into line, and let the forward rhythm of my people lead me on.

—AJF

NORTHMINSTER BAPTIST CHURCH
3955 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 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

O don't, please don't, my Dear Ones,
let the blah, blah, blah of the outside world
keep you from this hour, this gift.
The silences, as well as the sounds,
will bind your wounds and soothe your scars.
So, sit down easy and turn aside.
Turn aside from your worries and your woes
for one short spell
and let the Holy One, who loves you,
speak softness to your soul.

—AJF

The Prelude “Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him” Paige

The Call to Worship “O God, We Praise Thee” Coker

O God, we praise thee, now the night is over;
active and watchful, stand we all before thee;
singing, we offer prayer and meditation;
thus, we adore thee. Amen.

*The Processional Hymn No. 62

ST. DENIO

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*The Litany of Praise

Chris Wiggs

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Who is like you, Lord our God—majestic in holiness,

People: **Awesome in glory, working wonders?**

Leader: In your unfailing love you will lead your redeemed:

People: **In your strength you will guide us.**

Leader: To you we sing, for you are highly exalted:

All: **You will reign forever and ever. Amen.**

— *Chalice Worship*

*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

Chris Wiggs

The Greeting

Geoff Davidson

The Dedication of Children and Parents

Wilkes Fugett
Son of Jake and Becca Fugett

The Litany of Dedication

Marty Harper

Pastor: We are here today to present Wilkes to the church and to dedicate him to God. Who brings this child for this holy purpose?

Parents: *We, his parents, bring this child to be dedicated to God.*

Pastor: What can we affirm about this child?

People: **That he is made in the image of God and is a child of God by creation.**

Pastor: What will this child be told about his faith history?

People: He will learn about Abraham and Sarah, the grandparents of our faith; about Moses, who led our ancestors out of bondage, and about Miriam, who sang and danced a victory song of freedom; about the Jewish hope for a Messiah; about Jesus Christ the Savior, and about the history of the church as God's redemptive people in the world.

Pastor: Who will raise this child in the faith, worship with him regularly, teach him to pray and lead him into a loving relationship with God?

Parents: *We are the persons primarily responsible for this important work.*

Pastor: Is anyone else to help with the guidance of this child?

People: Yes, we too, will share in his growth, surrounding him even from a distance with love, prayer, and the witness of faith.

Pastor: We trust that God will be with us in this awesome task.

People: For God is faithful to us in all that we do.

Pastor: Amen.

The Presentation of the Child

Scott Dickison

The Lessons

Exodus 14:19-31
Romans 14:1-12

Geoff Davidson

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Meditation of Confession

Gracious and loving God, you have lived for us—we have not lived for you. You have forgiven us—we have not forgiven others. You have loved us—we have not loved ourselves, nor have we loved one another. Have mercy on us and forgive us, God. Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you. Help us to love

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*
Year A, adapted

The Silent Prayer

The Assurance of Pardon

Marty Harper

The Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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. 559

KINGSFOLD

“Make Room within My Heart, O God”

*The Offertory Prayer

Chris Wiggs

The Offertory

“Our Father in Heaven”

Bach

*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 18:21-35

Masyn Evans-Clements

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Anthem

“Lauda anima”

Andrews

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Father-like, He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows;

In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels in the height adore Him! Ye behold Him face to face;
Saints triumphant bow before Him! Gathered in from every race.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace, Amen.

The Sermon

“In the Midst of the Sea”

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

Please tell me, O Wise Owl, what it means to live to the Lord?

Why, Little Robin Redbreast, it's as easy—and as hard—as this:
to trust the Wind will carry you when you spread your wings to fly,
to know the Tree will shelter you when the hard rains come,
to sing your song of praise at each day's dawning, and
to give God glory at each day's end.

—AJF

*The Recessional Hymn No. 532

SLANE

“Be Thou My Vision”

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Postlude

“Psalm 117”

Colvin

**The congregation will please stand.*

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

Exodus 14:19-31, pages 53-54

Romans 14:1-12, pages 923-924

Matthew 18:21-35, page 800

Today is the Sixteenth 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.

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

September 17	Rob Hill
September 24	Jeff Wilson
October 1	Joe Sims
October 8	Bo Allen

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, September 16

Cooks:	Drivers:
Shari Culver	Rt. 1: James Bethea
Carolyn McIntyre	Rt. 2: Beverly Raddin
Leah Hendrix	

———— ANNOUNCEMENTS ————

Annual Congregational Meeting

Today
Immediately following the worship service
Agenda

I. Election of Deacons

Deacon Nominees

Valerie Linn
Kyle Watson

Lee Parrott
Christopher Wiggs

Gates Skene
Amy Williams

II. Election of Legacy Giving Committee Members

The Board of Deacons recommends the following members to serve a three-year term on the Legacy Giving Committee:

Rick Calhoon
Will Walker

Pursuant to our bylaws, at the annual meeting, any member of the congregation may nominate another qualified member, provided that prior to the time of nomination, the person being nominated shall have consented to the nomination and agreed to serve faithfully if elected. This applies to both elections.

We will also provide an update on the continued sharing of our facilities with the Beth Israel Congregation.

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

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday, September 16

5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

Cost: \$5 per child, \$8 per adult, \$25 per family

Menu: taco bar: soft & hard tortillas, ground beef,
rice, black beans, guacamole and dessert

Servers: Hilda Boteler, Jennifer Carter,
Amy Moremen and Susan Phillips

Cashier: George Luter

Lunch and Learn with Richie Burnette

Tuesday, September 29 at noon in the Great Hall

Lunch: \$10

Join us for our next Lunch and Learn as Richie Burnette—a Mississippi raconteur and storyteller, and Brooks Elfert’s father—presents **“No Jesus, No Elvis.”**

Richie will explore the often-overlooked Christian roots of American music, tracing the influence of the church on artists such as Elvis Presley, B. B. King, Faith Hill, and many others. He’ll also share a few musical performances along the way. Whether you’re a music lover, history buff, or simply curious, this promises to be a fascinating presentation.

We’ll enjoy lunch together, followed by Richie’s presentation and time for questions.

Please RSVP by **September 22** using the QR code below.



FALL ADULT STUDIES

FED TALKS: Faith, Experience and Discovery

Tonight & September 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Come join us for this two-night series of short, TED-style talks featuring members of our church sharing stories, questions, and discoveries from their lives of faith. Join us September 13 for “Where I’ve Seen God” and September 20 for “What I See Differently Now.” Come listen, learn, and be inspired by the faith and experiences of people in our own community.

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 4

Everyone is invited to bring their pets to the amphitheater for a blessing of the pets on St. Francis Day. We’ll have a brief service of blessing and enjoy ice cream and pup cups. More details to follow!

The Poetry of Ordinary Time

Sundays, October 11, 18 & 25

Join us these weeks in October as we pair poems with the scriptures and themes of Ordinary Time, or as we speak of it here at Northminster, “The Growing Season.”

Northminster Hits: Musical Bingo Night

Sunday, November 8

We’re kicking off a night of fellowship and fun with music, friendly competition, and a chance to see just how well you know your favorite songs. More details coming soon, but start thinking about who you want on your team

Book Buddies Needed at Spann Elementary School

Reading buddies are needed for one hour per week any time between 7:30 and 1:30 on Monday through Friday. Volunteers will spend 30 minutes each with two children listening to them read and asking

reading comprehension questions. Reading buddies can also bring in a favorite book to read to the children. To volunteer, contact Lesley Ratcliff at lesley@northminsterbaptist.org or call the church office.

Save the Date!

Senior Adult Conference Scam Awareness and Prevention

Tuesday, November 10
9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Featured Speakers
FBI Investigator
Better Business Bureau Fraud Department
Please RSVP by using the QR code below.



———— YOUTH NEWS ————

Youth Sunday School

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

Sunday Nights at the Youth House

Students, join us at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, fun, and growing together in our faith. Adults, talk to Geoff about how you can help make this another great semester.

Save the Dates

Youth mission trip to Waco, TX, July 3-8 or 9, 2027. Now accepting registrations! Cost: \$275, including a \$75 deposit.

For those interested in 2027 Passport June 19-25, a \$100 deposit is due by September 29. Final cost TBD. No Passport registrations will be accepted after this date.

———— CHILDREN'S NEWS ————

Children's Worship Volunteer Schedule

September 13: Firecrackers—Jennifer & Drew Rymer
Sparklers—Caroline & Kirk Sims

September 20: Chapel Coordinators—Dana & Scott Wilson
Firecrackers & Sparklers—Neely &
Michael McGinnis

Children's Sunday Night Activities

Tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Our Preschool and Elementary Atriums and Four5Six will begin a new year in the Children's Area.

Parents' Day Out

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

You can make a reservation for your children (infant-sixth grade) by calling the church office, 601-982-4703, by Wednesday, September 16. This is just like Parents' Night Out, but during the day! We will feed the children lunch.

Children's Birthday Gathering

Tuesday, September 22, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Save the Date!

Children's Retreat

November 7-8

Children in third through sixth grade are invited to our annual Fall Retreat. This year we will be exploring the theme "God's Story, Our Hands" through the stories of Moses. We'll play games, have Bible study, do a ropes course, and have a bonfire. We will leave at 8:00 a.m. on November 7 and return in time for worship at Northminster on November 8. Registration is opening soon.

THE CHURCH IN SERVICE

Sunday, September 13

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Baby Dedication
- 11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium & Four5Six
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Night, YH
- 5:30 p.m. Fall Adult Studies, GH

Monday, September 14

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

Tuesday, September 15

- 11:45 a.m. Book Study with Mt. Helm, GH
- 2:00 p.m. Senior Adult Ministries Cmte., L/CR
- 4:30 p.m. Cancer Support, L/CR
- 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music Cmte., L/CR

Wednesday, September 16

- 8:30 a.m. Enneagram, Adult Ed. Bldg.
- 10:00 a.m. Meal on Wheels
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper, GH
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 18

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

Saturday, September 19

- 9:00 a.m. Parents' Day Out

Sunday, September 20

- 8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. Atrium & Four5Six

- 5:00 p.m. Youth Sunday Night, YH
- 5:30 p.m. Fall Adult Studies, GH
- 6:45 p.m. Deacons' Meeting
L/CR
- 8:00 p.m. Beth Israel Yom Kippur Service

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Every member a minister

The Deacon of the Week is Nancy Smith.

The Caregiving Chair for September is Sarah Reynolds.

The Caregiving Coordinator for September is Gail England.

The Caregiver of the Week is Shari Culver.

The Liturgist for today is Amy Finkelberg.

The flowers for today are provided by Leah Hendrix.

The Usher Captain for September is Judy Rankin.

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
Facilities Manager	Leonard Wilson

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