



# J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 5, 2023 • 10:30 AM

### Gathering

#### Welcome and announcements

*Whitney Rawlings*

#### Prelude

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

*arr. Anthony Giamanco*

#### Introit

*Hallelujah! What a Savior*

HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR

#### \*Call to worship

As God sent Abraham, Sarah, and Lot on a journey, God calls us to follow in trust.

**God is able to make us more than we have been and blesses us on the way.**

As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born again, Christ invites us to become a new creation.

**Christ calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light, and we are saved through him.**

#### \*Hymn no. 60

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

#### Call to confession

We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly, we confess our sins in faith.

#### Prayer of confession

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

#### Declaration of forgiveness

Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

### The Word

#### Anthem

*Psalms 121*

*Timothy Shaw*

#### Prayer for illumination

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. Amen.

#### Scriptures: *John 3:1-17*

#### Sermon

*Wrestling with the Questions*

*the Reverend Chris Richardson*

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

*Hymnal, p. 14*

#### \*Gloria Patri

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Hymn no. 805*

#### \*Hymn no. 552

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OLIVET

#### Invitation to offering

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

#### Offertory

*What Wondrous Love is This*

*arr. Jay Rouse*

#### \*Doxology

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Hymn no. 809*

#### \*Prayer of thanksgiving

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude – for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.

#### Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

### Sending

#### \*Hymn no. 569 (verse 1)

*Living for Jesus a Life that is True*

LIVING

#### Charge and blessing

Go out in faith, trusting in God's sense of direction. Remember how much God loves this world and so love the world in the name of Christ, that your testimony becomes the good news someone else has been waiting to receive.

As you go out and come in, may God keep you by sunlight and moonlight; may Christ encompass you with love; and may the Holy Spirit empower you with new life; now and forever.

**Postlude**

*To the Hills I Lift My Eyes*

GUIDE

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**Announcements**

**Record from last week (02/26/23)** Attendance • 100

Offering • \$2,264

**This week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian**

Monday	5:30 PM	Pastor Nominating Committee
Tuesday	5:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Wednesday	7:15 AM	Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

**Upcoming events**

Sunday, 3/12	Led by the Rev. Jill Buckley
Tuesday, 3/14	<b>Presbyterian Women</b> (lessons 6 & 7, Hospitality and Self-Care)
Sunday, 3/19	<b>Communion</b> , Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; <b>Session</b> meeting
Sunday, 3/26	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 4/2	<b>Palm Sunday</b> , led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Thursday, 4/6	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> (with <b>Communion</b> ), led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Friday, 4/7	<b>Good Friday</b> at Centenary United Methodist Church
Sunday, 4/9	<b>Easter</b> (with <b>Communion</b> ), led by the Rev. Chris Richardson

**Welcome to worship!**

*All* who worship here are joyfully welcomed into our midst! To visitors, we offer a special hand of fellowship and invite you to join us again soon; please fill out the blue card in your pew and place in the offering plate.

**Welcome to the Reverend Chris Richardson**

Rev. Chris Richardson works part-time as a chaplain for Hospice Ministries and is an elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, Chris has lived in Pike County since marrying husband Kevin in 2004. They have three children: Colin, Brooke, and Emma.

**Vision 2023** (adopted by Session on December 11, 2022)

**Believe in Me and grow our church together in 2023.** In 2023, we shall regularly reach out to inactive members, encouraging them to renew participation in the life of JJWMPC. We shall also increase visibility through social media and community involvement that encourages others to join our membership. This will include promotion of church facilities as a destination for appropriate community events, with special emphasis on attracting young adults and youth. In doing so, we shall be widely recognized as a vibrant, welcoming church family that loves the Lord and one another. These initiatives will serve to grow membership and double attendance by year end, 2023.

**Reminder of God’s call to stewardship**

**Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver** (2 Corinthians 9:7). Thank you to all who have already submitted 2023 pledge cards, greatly helping the church plan the year’s budget. Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, with any questions or concerns.

**Session**

Watkins “Noggin” Wild, Clerk of Session • Wayne Hutchison, Treasurer		
<b>Class of 2023</b>	<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>
Dennis Ross	Melisa DeCoux	Tommy Brock
Randy White	Suzi Drummond	Linda Miller
Rusty Whittington	Whitney Rawlings	Noggin Wild

**Sanctuary flowers**

Today’s sanctuary flowers are provided by Rusty Whittington in honor of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

**Lectionary readings and questions for reflection**

The complete list of this week’s scripture readings is: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17; Matthew 17:1-9. Consider a time when you felt uncertain. Can you see how God was at work in your life at that time? What from Abraham and Sarah’s story, or from Nicodemus’s story, is helpful to you as you look for evidence of God’s presence in your own life?