



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

Jesus Is Alive!

Cindy Berry

***Call to worship**

Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Sin and death shall reign no more.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Let this place resound with joy.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

***Hymn no. 234**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

Call to confession

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness that we may enter through them. Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of confession

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection.

Yet we have not lived as Easter people. We are unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger. Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize your presence.

Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know you with confidence. Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess your Easter victory. Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts, keep our minds on your reconciling love. Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression.

Forgive our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

Listen, church: God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

The Word

Ministry in Music

Arise, My Soul, Arise

arr. Dan Forrest

Bridget Regan, voice; Dr. LaTannia Ellerbe, violin; Jennifers Sanders, piano

Prayer for illumination

Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone and reveal to us the Word of Life. **Amen.**

Scriptures: *Matthew 28:1-10*

Sermon

Do Not Be Afraid

the Reverend Chris Richardson

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

***Gloria Patri**

Glory Be to the Father

Hymn no. 805

Ministry in Music

Near the Cross

arr. Mark Hayes

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross and I Am Thine, O Lord

Bridget Regan, voice; Dr. LaTannia Ellerbe, violin; Jennifers Sanders, piano

†The sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Insert

COMMUNION: The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

Jeremy Threlfall, voice; Dr. LaTannia Ellerbe, violin; Jennifer Sanders, piano

Invitation to offering

God has given us life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruits of our labor to God's service.

Offertory

I Have Seen Him (Mary & Christ Duet)

Benson/Carter/Richardson

Bridget Regan, voice; Jeremy Threlfall, voice; Dr. LaTannia Ellerbe, violin; Jennifers Sanders, piano

***Doxology**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn no. 809

***Prayer of thanksgiving**

Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with you forever. **Amen.**

Prayers of the people

Sending

***Hymn no. 238**

Because He Lives

RESURRECTION

Charge and blessing

Receive the good news: Christ is risen from the dead.

Tell the good news: the power of death shall no more oppress us.

Live the good news: we are free to love as he has loved us.

May God who raised Jesus from the dead bless you and by the power of the Holy Spirit raise you with him in glory.

Postlude

Easter Celebration Medley

arr. Gary Lanier

Dr. LaTannia Ellerbe, violin; Jennifers Sanders, piano

**Please stand as you are able*

†Gluten-free communion bread available

Announcements

Record from last week (04/02/23) Attendance • 73

Offering • \$3,753

This week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Monday	5:30 PM	Pastor Nominating Committee
Tuesday	11:30 AM	Presbyterian Women (chapter 8, Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Wednesday	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming events

Sunday, 4/16	Led by the Rev. Joe Pack Arnold
Sunday, 4/23	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 4/30	Led by the Rev. Dr. John Dudley

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.

Welcome to our guest musicians

Bridget Regan is a native of Magnolia. After graduating from McComb High School, she attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and remained there for ten years. Bridget went on to earn a bachelors in psychology from the City University of New York and a masters in special education from Mississippi State. Bridget is currently a special educator in the Brookhaven School District.

Jeremy Threlfall resides in McComb with his wife Cleia. His love for singing started at the early age of 5 and has developed into a life of performing, composing, recording, filming, and even arranging – with a variety of audiences ranging from country to Broadway, opera to children, and inspirational.

Dr. LaTannia Ellerbe, a native of the Southeastern United States, endeavors to share the love of Christ through music. She has performed in the United States, Singapore, Bermuda, and Cuba. Dr. Ellerbe is currently on faculty at Jackson State University, where she serves as Assistant Professor of Strings and conducts the String Ensemble. Dr. Ellerbe earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Minnesota under the guidance of Sally O'Reilly. She received her Master of Music from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and her Bachelor of Music from Vanderbilt University as a Chancellor's Scholar.

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 JJWMP. 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

Now, our God, we give you thanks, ... Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand (1 Chronicles 29:13-14). Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, with any questions or concerns.

Session

Watkins "Noggin" Wild, Clerk of Session • Wayne Hutchison, Treasurer		
Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
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 Carol Rawlings and Kathy Parker in honor of the congregation of J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

When Mary Magdalene first saw the resurrected Jesus, she did not recognize him, even though she knew the tomb was empty. Have you ever experienced the presence of the risen Christ, even when you were not expecting him? Are there times you have been in the presence of the risen Christ but have not recognized him? How would you know?

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110 Third Street • P.O. Box 774 • McComb, Mississippi 39648 • (601) 684-4189

Email jjwhitememorial@gmail.com • Web www.jjwhitememorial.org • Facebook JJWhiteMPC