



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

In Christ Alone/Jesus Paid it All

arr. Cindy Berry

Introit

There Is a Redeemer

arr. Benjamin Harlan

*Call to worship

Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

Alleluia!

By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

Alleluia!

By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

*Hymn no. 557

Open My Eyes, That I May See

SCOTT

Call to confession

God judges all people impartially according to their deeds. Trusting in God's love in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of confession

Almighty God our world is filled with corruption: power disguises itself as truth; convenience masquerades as goodness; selfish pleasure imitates love. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of the world's sin.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience, that we may see the joy of Jesus' resurrection and receive the promise of everlasting life.

Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

Followers of Jesus: God has promised salvation to us, to our children, and to all who are near and far. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

The Word

Special music

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. Christopher Aspaas

Prayer for illumination

Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and set their hearts ablaze. By the power of the Spirit kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed, that we may receive you with joy. **Amen.**

Scriptures: *Luke 24:13-35*

Sermon

Walking, Doubting, Believing

the Rev. Chris Richardson

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

*Gloria Patri

Glory Be to the Father

Hymn no. 805

*Hymn no. 561

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

CLOSER WALK

Invitation to offering

Bountiful are God's gifts to us. In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to God's service.

Offertory

Wonderful Words of Life

arr. Cindy Berry

*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. Let us be a sacrifice of thanksgiving in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. **Amen.**

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Sending

*Hymn no. 609

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

SHOWALTER

Charge and blessing

Go in the joy of resurrection: purify your souls; be obedient to the truth; be genuine in love, through the living and enduring Word of God.

May the grace of Jesus Christ our risen Lord, the love of God who raised him from the dead, and the power of the Holy Spirit who fills the world with new life bless and keep you.

Postlude

He Is Exalted

arr. Tom Gerou and Victor Labenske

**Please stand as you are able*

Announcements

Record from last week (04/16/23) Attendance • 37

Offering • \$2,325

This week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Today	2:00 PM	Session meeting
Monday	5:30 PM	Pastor Nominating Committee
Tuesday	5:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
Wednesday	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, 4/26	5:30 PM	Potluck dinner to celebrate April/90+ birthdays (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming events

Sunday, 4/30	Led by the Rev. Dr. John Dudley; MICA collection; Congregational meeting afterward
Sunday, 5/7	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 5/14	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 5/21	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 5/28	Led by the Rev. Philip Williams (with Communion and recognition of seniors Whit Williams and Kya Cotton)

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 guest pianist

Hailing from McComb, **Beverly Miller** has a multi-generational heritage of being deeply involved with local churches and has 30+ years of personal experience as a church pianist. She also serves as pianist for weddings, funerals, and holiday events as well as teaching students weekly. Having music ingrained in her heart and knowing first-hand how transformative it can be for others leads Beverly to regularly serve others by sharing her talents. Welcome, Beverly, and thank you!

Fellowship birthday dinner

Potluck starts April 26 at 5:30 PM! We will celebrate the birthdays of all born in April and additionally, on this first potluck event of 2023, we'll honor all those who are 90+ years old! The church will provide beverages, bread, and birthday cake. Please bring a dish to share.

Congregational meeting

A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 30**, immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting for the Session to present the church budget for 2023. The Reverend Dr. John Dudley will moderate.

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

We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. (1 Chronicles 29:15-16). 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 June Hart in loving memory of Barry Hart.

Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23. The disciples on the road to Emmaus were with Jesus for hours as he taught them the meaning of the Scriptures. However, they finally recognized him as the risen Lord only in "the breaking of the bread." How does the Lord's Supper enable you to recognize Jesus?

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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