



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 21, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

arr. Mark Hayes

Introit

God Is So Good

GOD IS SO GOOD

*Call to worship

Shout for joy, sing songs of praise,
for God reigns over all the earth!

God has gone up with a shout!

Sound the trumpets and sing songs of praise!

*Hymn no. 745

Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET

Call to confession

Jesus tells us that repentance and forgiveness is to be offered in his name. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, who assures us of new life through the power of Christ's redeeming love.

Prayer of confession

Living God, we confess that our faith is sometimes weak, our love for others can be faint, our prayers are often timid, and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing. When we stand looking toward heaven, yet feel far from you, you draw near in mercy to forgive us, and fill us with your power, through the grace of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

The Word

Anthem

More Precious Than Silver

Lyn DeShazo

Prayer for illumination

Come Holy Spirit, open our minds to see the power of Scripture to give life; enlighten our hearts that we might see Christ in everyone whom we meet; in the name of the one, holy, and living God, to whom we give all glory. **Amen.**

Scriptures: *Luke 24:44-53*

Sermon

Be a Witness

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. 514

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

ASSURANCE

Invitation to offering

God has given us the gift of Christ, risen and ascended for the life of the world. Therefore, let us offer our gifts in return, that others may know this glorious news.

Offertory

Grace Greater Than All Our Sin

arr. Carol Tornquist

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn no. 809

*Prayer of thanksgiving

O God of all glory and majesty, we give you thanks for the gift of your Son, and his power at work in our lives and our gifts. Bless these gifts for the benefits they afford in bringing life to others in your name. Bless our lives that we may be your witnesses to the end of the earth as we love and serve you, O God most high. **Amen.**

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Sending

*Hymn no. 498

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

Charge and blessing

God's Spirit is poured out upon us to make our hearts strong with love and bold with praise that we may proclaim God's Son to the ends of the earth.

May the glory of God fill you with praise, the beauty of Christ strengthen you in service, and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace.

Postlude

Beautiful One

Carol Tornquist

**Please stand as you are able*

Announcements

Record from last week (05/14/23)

Attendance • 52

Offering • \$4,839

This week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

TODAY	2:30 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)

Upcoming events

Sunday, 5/28	Led by the Rev. Philip Williams (with Communion); recognition of Seniors Whit Williams and Kya Cotton
Wednesday, 5/31	@ 5:30 PM, May birthdays potluck BBQ on the green
Sunday, 6/4	Led by the Rev. Philip Williams (with Communion)
Sunday, 6/11	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 6/18	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 6/25	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.

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 back, Beverly, and thank you!

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

I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get (Luke 18:12). Thank you for all tithes and offerings to support the work of this church in its service to the community and the world. 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

Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings is: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53. The risen and ascended Christ promises to send us power from on high. How do I use such "soul force" to bring forgiveness, blessing, and love to others?

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

110 Third Street • P.O. Box 774 • McComb, Mississippi 39648 • (601) 684-4189
Email jjwhitememorial@gmail.com • Web www.jjwhitememorial.org • Facebook [JJWhiteMPC](https://www.facebook.com/JJWhiteMPC)