



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 9, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

All Praise to You, Eternal Lord

O WALY WALY

Introit

When Love Is Found

O WALY WALY

Call to worship

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord,
and proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Your steadfast love endures forever.

Your faithfulness is as high as the heavens.

Happy are those who sing your praise
and extol your righteousness all the day.

***Hymn no. 558 (verses 1 & 4)** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BEECHER

Call to confession

Let us confess our sins to God, whose loving-kindness endures forever.

Prayer of confession

O Lord, you taught us to love you and our neighbor, but we have not lived in right relationship or walked in the light of your love. Forgive us for the wrongs we have done; we know that the wages of sin is death. Yet we trust in your gift of forgiveness, which is freedom and life in Christ. Amen.

The Word

Anthem

Jesus Loves Me

arr. Ralph Manuel

Prayer for illumination

Loving God, as we hear your Word this day, send your Spirit to equip and inspire us, that your grace-filled hospitality may be the center of our lives. **Amen.**

Scriptures: *Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

Sermon

Prisoners of Hope

the Reverend Amy Finkelberg

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

***Gloria Patri**

Glory Be to the Father

Hymn no. 805

***Hymn no. 622**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE

Invitation to the offering

Jesus said, Truly I tell you, those who offer a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple will not lose their reward. Beloved, let us offer to God the gifts of our lives and labor.

Offertory

Fill My Cup, Lord

arr. Gene Roberson

***Doxology**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn no. 809

***Prayer of thanksgiving**

Faithful God, we give you thanks that you have entrusted us with the gift of hospitality and generosity, and that you have set us free to be generous givers of the gifts you so freely give to us. May our offerings this day draw us closer to you as we share them with others for righteousness' sake. **Amen.**

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Sending

***Hymn no. 470 (verse 1)**

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

JESUS LOVES ME

Charge and blessing

Sisters and brothers, you have been given the spirit of freedom and saved for the sake of God's love. Freely share that love in the world, knowing that the reward of right relationship is holiness and life eternal.

May the One who creates, redeems, and sustains you from everlasting to everlasting grant you the grace of peace, holiness, and eternal life.

Postlude

My Tribute

arr. Glenda Austin

**Please stand as you are able*

Announcements

Record from last week (07/02/23) Attendance • 36

Offering • \$4,242

This week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

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

Upcoming events

Sunday, 7/16	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson (with Communion); Session meeting
Sunday, 7/23	Led by the Rev. Barron Banks
Sunday, 7/30	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; MICA food pantry collection
Sunday, 8/6	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 8/13	Led by the Rev. Dr. John Dudley
Sunday, 8/20	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 8/27	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 Amy Finkelberg

A native of North Carolina, Amy Finkelberg graduated from the University of Richmond and then the Wake Forest University Divinity School. Amy served as Associate Pastor at Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson, MS, for twelve and a half years, and she remains an active member there. Amy enjoys supply preaching, leading women's groups, writing, traveling with her husband Arty, and spending time with family and friends. We welcome her into our presence!

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

The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine and olive oil to the storerooms, where the articles for the sanctuary and for the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the musicians are also kept. We will not neglect the house of our God (Nehemiah 10:39). Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, with any questions or concerns about your tithes or offerings.

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 Cato in loving memory of Joseph Cato.

Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. How have you experienced God's steadfast love? What blessings have you encountered as you continued in hope? In what ways have you been able to share God's abiding love with others in need?

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