



# J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

## PROPER 11 • 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2023 • 10:30 AM

### Gathering

#### Welcome and announcements

Whitney Rawlings

#### Prelude

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

John Hughes

#### Introit

*Change My Heart, Oh God*

arr. Benjamin Harlan

#### Call to worship

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**You have set your glory above the heavens.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

**the moon and the stars that you have established;**

what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

**mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God

**and crowned them with glory and honor.**

#### \*Hymn no. 584

*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

ADELAIDE

#### Call to confession

Sisters and brothers, all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. We did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received a spirit of adoption. Let us then confess our sin with the freedom of children who know how deeply they are loved.

#### Prayer of confession

**Merciful God, your creatures cry – creation groans – but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.**

**Life-giving God, wash us clean. Restore our imaginations and our hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for creation waits with longing for the revealing of the children of God. Amen.**

### The Word

#### Anthem

*Search Me, O God*

ELLERS

#### Prayer for illumination

Holy One, you love with a father's tenderness, a mother's zeal. Move now in our hearts. Breathe through the words we hear, the songs we share, the burdens we carry, until we discover our purpose in your liberating love, for we long to join creation's praise and to shine with the mercy of the Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**Scriptures:** *Proverbs 3:5-6; John 3:1-12*

#### Sermon

*Is Today's Church Still Useful and Needed?* the Reverend Barron Banks

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

*Hymnal, p. 14*

#### \*Gloria Patri

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Hymn no. 805*

#### \*Hymn no. 539 (verse 1)

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

#### Invitation to the offering

God blesses us that we might carry that blessing into the world. Let us give with grateful hearts.

#### Offertory

*Where He Leads Me*

arr. Cindy Berry

#### \*Doxology

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Hymn no. 809*

#### \*Prayer of thanksgiving

God of mystery and grace, you have met us and blessed us with such abundant promise. In gratitude we offer what we carry in our hearts and our pockets. As we bring these worn and freighted offerings, we pray that you would use us, for we come in the name of Jesus and by the movement of your Spirit in this place. **Amen.**

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

### Sending

#### \*Hymn no. 689 (verses 1 & 5)

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

#### Charge and blessing

Sisters and brothers, however dark the night gets – whatever you have stolen or squandered – know that you are held by a love like this: the Creator who made you still claims you in covenant love; the Redeemer who died for your sake lives again by the word of God; the Sustainer of all creation yet breathes courage into your heart.

Sisters and brothers, the triune God still traffics in mercy. Serve, then, with boldness and joy.

\*Please stand as you are able

## Announcements

**Record from last week (07/16/23)**

Attendance • 44

Offering • \$8,285

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

Monday	5:30 PM	Pastor Nominating Committee
Wednesday	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
	4:30 PM	Choir rehearsal
	5:30 PM	<b>July birthday potluck dinner</b> ("Summer Bounty," Fellowship Hall)

**Upcoming events**

Sunday, 7/30	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; <b>MICA</b> food pantry collection
Sunday, 8/6	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Tuesday, 8/8	<b>Presbyterian Women</b> begin new Bible study on Jesus' mercy and grace – <i>all invited!</i>
Sunday, 8/13	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 Barron Banks**

Rev. Barron Banks is a Presbyterian minister and Jackson State University professor who lives in Jackson. We are delighted to have him lead us in worship this morning. Welcome, Rev. Banks!

**July birthday celebration**

Join the fun this Wednesday, July 26, at 5:30 PM to celebrate the month's birthdays. The potluck dinner is themed "Summer Bounty," featuring BLT sandwiches and cooked ham provided by the church, to accompany potluck dishes of your favorite veggies. Dessert (also provided by the church) celebrates summer with an assortment of delicious cobblers. Bring along a vegetable dish ... and a friend! For help with transportation, please contact Tommy and Debbi Brock.

**MICA food collection**

Next Sunday, **July 30**, is MICA community food pantry collection. Please remember your MICA gifts to help the hungry in our community. Peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, corn muffin mix, crackers, canned vegetables, canned chili, and rice are always needed. McComb Market has grocery bags with many of these items already selected, available for \$10/bag.

**Congregational meeting in August**

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, August 13, immediately following worship, to elect an Elder Nominating Committee. Copies of the ballot will be available two Sundays prior to the election for prayerful consideration of choices before the election; votes will be counted right after the congregational meeting. This Elder Nominating Committee will provide a slate of 3 congregation members to be placed in nomination in October for the position of Elder to serve a three-year term (2024-26).

**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**

**A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30)** 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		
<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 Robbie and Andrea DeCoux in memory of Libby Simo.

**Lectionary readings and questions for reflection**

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23;24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. How has your understanding of the relationship between suffering and faith changed over time? What experiences of God's grace do you need to acknowledge and anoint?

### J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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Church office open **Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**