



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

PROPER 12 • 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

God Will Make a Way

Don Moen

Introit

See Ye First

LAFFERTY

Call to worship

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, **make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to him, sing praises to him, **tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name; **let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

Seek the Lord and his strength; **seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done, **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**

O offspring of his servant Abraham, **children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

***Hymn no. 534 (verses 1, 2, 4)**

Draw Me Nearer

I AM THINE

Call to confession

Sisters and brothers, God never forgets God's promises; God's covenant endures in each new generation. We are free to speak the truth about our lives because God's faithfulness embraces us as we examine our hearts.

Prayer of confession

God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes.

Gracious God, hidden and manifest, transform our withered imaginations until we yield the judgments we trust to a love we cannot control. Amen.

The Word

Ministry in Music

You Are My All in All

arr. Lloyd Larson

J.J. White Chancel Choir featuring Dierdre Reynolds, voice

Prayer for illumination

Spirit of life, we do not know how to pray as we ought. Meet us in words written, in words spoken; intercede for us with sighs too deep for words until we shine with the hope that is hidden in our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Romans 8:26-39*

Sermon

Q & A with Paul

the Reverend Chris Richardson

***Affirmation of Faith**

If God is for us, who can be against us?

God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also graciously give us all things?

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

It is God who justifies.

Who then is the one who condemns?

No one. Christ Jesus who died and was raised to life is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, **neither angels nor demons,**

neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **neither height nor depth,**

nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

***Gloria Patri**

Glory Be to the Father

Hymn no. 805

***Hymn no. 531**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

Invitation to the offering

The apostle Paul promises that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. We trust that God will bring forth good from that which we offer today. It is our privilege to participate in the unfolding of God's grace in the world. Let us give with grateful and expectant hearts.

Offertory

The Power of Your Love

arr. Carol Tornquist

Dierdre Reynolds, voice; Jennifer Sanders, piano

DoxologyPraise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**Hymn no. 809****Prayer of thanksgiving**

Holy One, receive these offerings as you receive our lives. Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts, our generosity and our reluctance. Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known, that our lives might show forth your glory, for we pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**Sending*****Hymn no. 447***Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

LAFFERTY

Charge and blessing

Go – as seed and yeast willing to lose your life in the larger purposes of God. Go – as fishermen and treasure seekers, pouring out your days in search of hidden grace.

May God, who searches the heart; Jesus, whose love overcomes all division; and the Spirit, which helps us in our weakness, continue to lead you into life that you may serve with abandon and joy.

Postlude*How Great Is Our God*

arr. Mark Hayes

Please stand as you are able*Announcements****Record from last week (07/23/23)***Attendance • 49**Offering • \$1,116***This week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian**

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, 8/6	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Tuesday, 8/8	Presbyterian Women begin new Bible study on Jesus' mercy and grace – <i>all invited!</i>
Sunday, 8/13	Led by the Rev. Dr. John Dudley; Congregational meeting and Session meeting
Sunday, 8/20	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson, with Communion

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 musician

Dierdre Reynolds resides in McComb and is married to James Reynolds. She is a registered nurse and a member of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. Thank you, Dierdre, for sharing your talents with us today!

New members

We heartily welcome new members **Sam and Ganeath Daniel!**

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 are now available 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 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

Every tithe of the herd and flock – every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod – will be holy to the Lord (Leviticus 27:32) Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, 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 Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Ratcliff in honor of Jennifer Sanders and the J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Chancel Choir.

Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. Are there dilemmas or relationships in which you feel separated from the love of God? What would change if you were to claim the promise that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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