

**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
The Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, October 24, 2021, 11:00 am
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

A Thought Before Worship

We gather in the beauty of creation so that we might not only hear God's Word,
but experience God's presence all around us.

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

***Call to Worship**

Come, all who are weary.

Lay down your burdens, for God can carry them better than you can.

Come all who are full of joy.

Join with all creation in giving praise to God!

Come, any who doubt or fear,

Behold the one who can even give sight to the blind!

Come, let us worship God!

***Prayer for the Day**

Merciful God, you have promised to hear us when we pray. Let praise flow from our mouths to your ears as we gather here surrounded by the beauty of your creation. All glory, praise, and honor belong to you, O God, for you are our Redeemer and our Strength. Amen.

***Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth"**

A Reading from the Psalter: Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice!

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing fruit for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

A Call to Confession

Surrounded here by signs of God's goodness, be assured that God hears our prayers. Let us confess our failings and our needs to each other and to the One who calls us to come and be healed.

A Prayer of Confession

Holy and loving God, you know us better than we know ourselves, and you know our needs better than we know what to ask. You see our need when we are blind to it. In your compassion forgive us for our lack of faith and the hard we do to others and to your creation. Forgive us when we turn away from your will, and when we ignore the cries of our neighbors and fail to listen to your call. Give us always the light of your wisdom and your way, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Beloved in the Lord, the same God who made this place and set us in it now calls us to receive mercy and to be forgiven. Stand firm in the assurance of God's pardon so that today and every day, your path may be clear and free. In Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Now may the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

We Hear God's Word

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

A Reading from the Epistles: Hebrews 7:23-28

Sermon "A Priest Forever!" the Rev. Bob Phelps

***An Affirmation of Faith from a Brief Statement of Faith for Presbyterians**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching Good News to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the Gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

The *Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen! Amen!

***Hymn “This Is My Father’s World”**

Offertory Sentence

Surrounded by the bounty of what God has provided, let us remember our call to bring tithes and offerings for the work of the Church and for the sake of all who benefit from it

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People --- Our Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

We Go in God’s Name

***Hymn “For the Fruit of All Creation”**

***Benediction**

May God, who hears our needs and answers when we cry, be with you today and always, a sure and certain strength now and forever.

***Charge**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord! Amen.

Welcome to Worship!

We are happy to welcome all who worship with us in the park today. We also welcome those who join us online and in print. We are especially glad to welcome visitors. Please join us again soon!

Church Picnic Thanks

Thanks to members of the Congregational Care and Fellowship Committee and all who helped the Church Picnic at Percy Quin Park happen today.

Congregational Meeting Next Sunday

The Session has called a congregational meeting for next Sunday, October 31, (no tricks) at the conclusion of the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is twofold:

1. We will hear a report from the Elder Nominating Committee and elect elders to serve terms from 2022-2024. The Committee will place in nomination the names of Melisa DeCoux, Suzi Drummond, and Whitney Rawlings. The Book of Order allows for additional nominations from the floor. Elders Ally Allred, Andrew DeCoux, and Wayne Hutchison will complete their terms at the end of this year. Please express appreciation to all of these for their faithful service.
2. We will also vote to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Bob and our Church. He will be retiring at the end of December.

Help Us Feed Kids at Higgins

Your gifts of food are making a difference in the lives of children at Higgins School. Every weekend, several kids at Higgins receive a pack of food to get them through the weekend. We are in need of juice boxes and main course options (beanie weenies, mac and cheese, beefaroni etc. in single serving containers) to replenish our stock. See Melisa DeCoux for more information about how you can help. Thanks to the PW for their help in assembling food bags.

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Today:	11:00 am	Worship in the Park Lunch and fellowship follow
Wednesday:	7:15 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast
	5:15 pm	Supper
	6:00 pm	Bible Study <u>Lies My Preacher Told Me</u> (Chapters 8 and 9)
Thursday:	10:30 am	Bible Study—Gospel of John
Next Sunday:	11:30 am	Congregational Meeting

Last Week's Record

**10-17--21 Attendance----- 46 here; 47 views on Facebook
Offering, 10-10-21:-----\$3772.00**

November Brings Opportunities to Feed on Tuesday Nights

We will be coordinating meals for the hungry of our community with other downtown churches on Tuesday nights during November, December, January, and February. We will serve on the third Tuesday of those months. See Melisa DeCoux to see how you can help with this important ministry. We are in partnership with Centenary United Methodist, First Christian, Church of the Mediator Episcopal and St. Al's Catholic congregations.

Two Special Worship Days Coming Up

Next Sunday, October 31, we will celebrate Reformation Sunday in worship. This is a day to claim our heritage in the Reformed Faith Tradition that dates back to the sixteenth century Protestant Reformation.

The following Sunday, November 7, we'll celebrate All Saints', a time to remember those in our congregation who have died since last November. Please plan to be present for both these special worship opportunities.