



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Whitney Rawlings

Prelude

Open My Eyes, That I May See

arr. Carol Tornquist

Introit

Hallelujah! What a Savior

HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR

*Call to worship

The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I lack.

God guides me in proper paths for the sake of God's good name.

God bathes my head in oil; my cup is full, it spills over!

Yes, God's goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life.

*Hymn no. 557

Open My Eyes, That I May See

SCOTT

Call to confession

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good and right and true, and expose what is unfruitful and evil. Knowing that we turn from the light, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadow of our hearts may be illumined by grace.

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves.

Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives.

Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Declaration of forgiveness

The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

We will live as children of the light, for Christ shines on us.

The Word

Anthem

Lonesome Valley/We Shall Walk

arr. T. Mabry/V. Schwarz

Prayer for illumination

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

Scriptures: *John 9:1-41*

Sermon

What's Missing?

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. 651

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON

†The sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Insert

Invitation to offering

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings to God, with gladness and gratitude.

Offertory

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. Mary McDonald

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn no. 809

*Prayer of thanksgiving

In gratitude, o Lord, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep, and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

Prayers of the people

Sending

*Hymn no. 635 (verses 1 & 3) *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought*

HE LEADETH ME

Charge and blessing

The hour is coming and is now here. Go forth to worship the Lord your God in spirit and in truth, in all that you say and do.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, springing up like living water, fill your heart, and flow through your life.

Postlude

The Power of Your Love

arr. Jane Hostein

*Please stand as you are able

†Gluten-free communion bread available

Announcements

Record from last week (03/12/23) Attendance • ___

Offering • \$1,415

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, 3/26	Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 4/2	Palm Sunday , led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Thursday, 4/6	Maundy Thursday (with Communion), led by the Rev. Chris Richardson
Friday, 4/7	Good Friday at Centenary United Methodist Church
Sunday, 4/9	Easter (with Communion), 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.

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

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service ... others will praise God for ... the generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else (2 Corinthians 9:12-13). 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

Sanctuary flowers

Today's sanctuary flowers are provided by Toni James in memory of Newton Ward James.

Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings includes Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 95. Samuel is told that God does not look upon outward appearances, but looks upon the heart. We know that King David, chosen by God, was a mixture of great courage and faithfulness – and great sin and failure. What do you suppose God saw and loved in David's heart? in your own heart?

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