

**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
The Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:30 am
Third Sunday of Easter**

A Thought Before Worship

*We give thanks that God comes to us through his Word and enables us to hear
what he has to say to us.*

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"To God Be The Glory"

Larson

***Call to Worship**

When the disciples thought all was lost and were certain that Jesus was dead,
Jesus, himself, stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

We gather here to watch for the Risen Christ among us today,

Bursting in with new life and new hope.

Christ, the Lord, is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Let us worship God!

***Prayer for the Day**

**Almighty and everlasting God, we give you thanks for your love poured out
on the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, who opened our minds to
understand your Word, whose appearance among his followers brings
peace, and who creates faith among us. Show us Jesus even today
through the mystery of your threefold presence, Father, Son, and Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art!
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord!**

**Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all!**

A Reading from the Epistles 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

A Call to Confession

Hear the Good News: The One who calls us to repent does not refuse to hear us when we do. With trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing grace of God's forgiveness. Let us pray:

A Prayer of Confession

**What love you have given us, O God, that you would call us your children.
What love you have given us, O Christ, that you should share our life with us and invite us to your Table. Forgive us when we act as though we are your only children, when we do not recognize your image in the faces of strangers, enemies, or friends, when we do not share our own tables with one another, when we forget that we need each other. Forgive us, O Maker of Peace, and teach us to follow in Christ's way of peace. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

In the name of God, the Father, Son, and Spirit, I assure you that our plea for forgiveness has been heard! God's promise is sure: 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!

A Piano Interlude

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Berg

Jennifer Sanders, piano

We Hear God’s Word

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God’s Word

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all these things.

Sermon

How Open?

the Rev. Bob Phelps

***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.

****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.***

Offertory Sentence:

As Jesus gave himself to us to bring us peace, so let us bring wholeness and peace to others through our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

“He Touched Me”

Rouse

****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. Amen.***

***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.

***Hymn “Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord!”**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

**Spread the Good News o’er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

**We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

**Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Give praise to his name!**

We Go In God’s Name

***Benediction**

May the Lord bless and keep you, shine upon you with grace and mercy, and provide you with what you need for each new day!

***Charge**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord!

***Postlude**

“O Love, How Deep”

Saella

News from Our Community of Faith

Last Week's Record

**4-11-21 Attendance-----60 here; 43 views on Facebook
Offering: \$4367.00**

Welcome to Worship!

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

Sunday School has Resumed!

Sunday School groups for all ages meet at 9:30 am. Classes for youth and children meet in the Sunday School building. For adults, the Seekers class meets in the Ewell Martin Room, and the Covenant Life Class meets on the second floor around the corner from the sanctuary. All groups welcome newcomers. We also invite you to come for fellowship and breakfast in the Ewell Martin Room at 9:00 am. Thanks to Bill Mitchell for providing today's breakfast.

Thursday Morning Bible Study Making Plans to Return

Our Thursday morning (10:30) Bible study group is making plans to return to the calendar soon. We are looking at several options including our study of the Gospel of John which we suspended when Covid hit, doing a short-term study of Walter Brueggemann's recent Virus-related Bible study, Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Anxiety, and maybe doing something altogether different. If you'd like to be part of the group and its decisions, please see Bob.

Today's flowers are presented to the glory of God and in memory of his mother, Imogene Moak, and his aunt, Sylvia Harris by Stacey Moak.

