

**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
The Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, April 25, 2021 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

A Thought Before Worship

By the leading of his own Spirit, God helps us to listen for his voice and follow in his paths all the days of our lives. That begins with worship.

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"How Firm a Foundation"

Berry

***Call to Worship**

Brothers and sisters, let us love one another, for love is of God.

All who love are born of God and know God. All who do not love do not know God, for God is love!

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which is God's gift to us.

Thanks be to God!

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

God's love endures forever. Let us worship God!

***Prayer for the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you raised Jesus from the grave and opened the way for us to eternal life. We praise you and give thanks that you are free to act, strong to redeem, and loving in all your ways. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn**

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.**

**Jesus! The name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace!**

**He breaks the power of canceled sin; he sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.**

He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;

The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, the honors of thy name.**

A Reading from the New Testament: Acts 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the High Priest, Caiaphas, John and Alexander, and all who were of the High-Priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by whose name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

A Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love for us is this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence and ask for forgiveness. Let us admit our sin before God:

A Prayer of Confession

O God, you have called us to love, not in word or in speech, but in truth and in action. You have laid down your life for us and commanded us to lay down our lives for one another. Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers when the world needs our hands and our feet.

Still, O Lord we fail to share our lives with the world, hiding behind a myth of independence. Forgive us, we pray, and, by your forgiveness, raise us to new life in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and who laid down his life for us. This is the Good News of the Gospel: 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

"Abide With Me"
Jennifer Sanders, piano

Crowder

We Hear God's Word

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

A Reading from the Epistles: 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Sermon

Let Us Love!

the Rev. Bob Phelps

***Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith for Presbyterians**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit we trust in the one triune God the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. 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!

***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:

With love for both God and our neighbor, let us bring tithes, offerings, and our lives to God.

Offertory

"The Gift of Love"

Miller

***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.

We Go In God's Name

***Hymn "How Firm a Foundation"**

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**

**"When through the deep waters I call you to go
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, our troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress."**

**"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flame shall not hurt you, I only design
Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine."**

**"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"**

***Benediction**

May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life, and, when your life ends, may you dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

***Charge**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord!

***Postlude**

“The Solid Rock”

Hall

News from Our Community of Faith

Last Week’s Record

**4-18-21 Attendance-----40 here; 45 views on Facebook
Offering: \$2595.00**

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. All are welcome. Join us for breakfast and conversation in the Ewell Martin Room at 9:00 am.

Thursday Morning Bible Study Resumes on April 29

Thursday morning Bible study will resume on April 29. We’ll meet at 10:30 am in the Ewell Martin Room. We’ll use Walter Brueggemann’s study of the virus as a call to faith as a guide for our study. The study will run from April 29 through June 10. Bob has a schedule of Bible texts we’ll use each week. You may purchase copies of Virus as a Summons to Faith from any online book outlet, but a copy of the book is not required to participate in the study. Newcomers are welcome. Regulars are expected. This group says you don’t have to be a Bible scholar to participate, but you might wind up being one if you do! Please join us.

***Today’s flowers are presented to the glory of God and in celebration of
spring and all God’s blessings, which are many,
by Rusty and Vickie Brill***