

**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
The Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, May 2, 2021 10:30 am
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

A Thought Before Worship

We gather here to be guided by God's Word to share the love of God with all the world.

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Johnston

***Call to Worship**

In the dry days of our lives, water gives us life.

We thank you that you seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the dark times of our lives, God's Word gives us light.

We thank you that you seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and cup of this Table, God offers nourishment and renewal to everyone who comes.

We thank you that you seek us out, O God, and invite us to your Table.

Here we find the water of life, a Word that feeds, and food for eternity. Come and praise the source of all good things.

Let us worship God!

***Prayer for the Day**

By water and Word, O God, you make all things new, feeding us with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to new beginnings. Teach us to love as you have loved us and to prune away what does not nourish your creation. We pray in the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

(Hyfrydol)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,

Fix in us your humble dwelling; all your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, you are all compassion, pure, unbounded love you are.

Visit us with your salvation; enter every trembling heart.

**Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast.
Let us all in you inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be,
End of faith as its beginning; set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all new life receive.
Suddenly return and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, serve you as your hosts above,
Pray and praise you without ceasing, glory in your perfect rest.**

**Finish then your new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you.
Changed from glory into glory, till in Heaven we take our place.
Till we cast our crowns before you, lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

A Reading from the New Testament: 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is from God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A Call to Confession

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God, and to one another, our failure to do what God commands. Let us pray.

A Prayer of Confession

In your grace, O God we find strength, and in your love, we find freedom. Forgive us, when we do not live as people who have been set free, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as branches of your vine, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your Spirit. Forgive us, O God, and teach us to abide in you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Hear and believe the Good News: In your baptism, God has claimed you and joined you to Christ as branches are joined to a vine. Nothing can separate us from God's love. Rejoice with me in the Good News: 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 "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Forrest

We Hear God's Word

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

A Reading from the New Testament: Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to his chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation, justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with the scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is

water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the town until he came to Caesarea.

Sermon

We All Need a Philip

the Rev. Bob Phelps

***Affirmation of Faith**

This is the Good News which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are being saved if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sin according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. 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.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to God's Table

“For Everyone Born”
(*Bob Phelps, baritone*)

Mann/Murray

For everyone born, a place at the table, For everyone born, clean water and bread,

A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, For everyone born, a star overhead. And God will rejoice when we are creators of justice and joy, Compassion and peace:

Yes, God will rejoice when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table, A voice to be heard, a part in the song,

The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, For young and for old, the right to belong.

And God will rejoice when we are creators of justice and joy, Compassion and peace:

Yes, God will rejoice when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

*For everyone born, a place at the table, To live without fear and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship, For everyone born, the right to be
free.*

*And God will rejoice when we are creators of justice and joy, Compassion and
peace:*

Yes, God will rejoice when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God,

It is right to give God thanks and praise....

....who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of
your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest....**

....Christ is the Bread of Life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of
our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ until he comes in glory....**

....as our Savior Jesus taught us to pray when he said:

**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.**

Words of Institution

Communion of God's People

A Prayer after Communion

**Here at this Table, O Lord, we celebrate Resurrection as you feed us with
bread and cup. As much as we might prefer to stay here in this place of
beauty and security, you send us back into the world where our work is.
But it is not the same work because now we know that you are with us and
in us, shaping us and transforming us to be your witnesses in the world.
Nourished in body, mind, and spirit, let all we say and do give you glory.
Amen.**

Offertory Sentence:

Offering what we have to help others is a part of growing as a disciple of Jesus. We bring these gifts to extend the witness of the Gospel to all the world, beginning here in our own community. Let us give from thankful and generous hearts.

Offertory
Hayes

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

***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

We Go In God’s Name

***Hymn**

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian, in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

***Benediction**

Jesus entered into real human life, and he remains alive in each of us and in all who believe. The blessing of his presence will go with you from this place wherever God calls you.

***Charge**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord!

***Postlude**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Alllyn

News from Our Community of Faith

Last Week's Record

**4-25-21 Attendance-----41 here; 63 views on Facebook
Offering:-----\$8225.00**

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!

Upcoming Celebrations

Next Sunday, May 9, is both Mother's Day and a time to celebrate with this year's high school and college graduates. Please plan to be with us.

On Sunday, May 23, we will celebrate Pentecost as we celebrate confirmation and church membership with Natalie Simo and Lydia Williams, who have completed this year's Confirmation Class. Please keep these two girls in your prayers.

May Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting for May will be on Sunday, May 16, immediately after worship in the Ewell Martin Room. Please keep Session members in your prayers.

Remembering a Special Friend

Norma Ann Williams died March 15, 2019. She generously donated her body for medical research at UMMC. The Medical Center will hold a memorial service for Norma Ann and others who donated as she did. The service will be online at umc.edu/Ceremony-of-Thanksgiving on Tuesday, May 11, at noon. Join us in remembering and giving thanks for Norma Ann's faithfulness in life and in death.

Choir Resumes This Week!

After a long, Covid-induced layoff, the choir will resume rehearsals this Wednesday, May 5, at 6:00 pm! We welcome newcomers! If you've not been part of the choir before and would like to join us, please let Deanna know so she can have things ready for you on Wednesday. We look forward to having the choir contribute to worship again soon.

***Today's flowers are presented to the glory of God and in memory of Ellen
Ramp by
Rusty Whittington.***

