

O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him!

A Prayer of Blessing on the New School Year

God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our apprehensions, and our joyful hopes for this new year to you. Last year was different than anything we had experienced before. Some of us didn't see our friends, play on playgrounds, or participate in things we were accustomed to. Some of us learned at home, some of us learned what socially distanced meant. We learned to breathe through masks. Some of us did all these things. Some of us excelled, and some of us struggled. Sometimes we felt sad and alone; other times we just felt confused. As we anticipate a new year with new virus concerns, God, who comforts us, hold us close and calm our fears. As we have prepared by buying supplies and gearing up, we have wondered what this year will bring. As we carry all those things to new rooms and new teachers, help us also to carry our hopes, our questions, and our hopeful expectations. Help us to see the endless possibilities of what this year can be—things we will learn, people we will meet, people we will become. God, who is with us always, be with us as we begin. However we get there, whatever we wear, however we feel, bless this journey into something new. Be with children, Loving God, but be with grown-ups who also go back to school. We give thanks for teachers, helpers, administrators, and planners and for all they do to help our children learn and grow. God, who is full of wonder, fill our hearts and bless our minds as we begin a whole new year of teaching and learning together. Amen.

A Call to Confession

Putting aside all falsehood, let us speak the truth to ourselves, to one another, and to God, trusting in God's mercy to forgive us.

A Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess how hard it is for us to live as your faithful people. We stay angry with the world; we nurse grudges against our adversaries. We hoard the fruits of our labors instead of sharing your bounty with people in genuine need. We do not always build one another up with words of kindness. Sometimes we indulge in gossip. We have difficulty forgiving those who wrong us even though we depend on your forgiveness of us in Jesus Christ. Heal us, O God, and give us the grace to

love one another as Jesus loves us and gave himself for us. In his name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Friends, hope in the Lord! In Jesus Christ, God has forgiven our sin. God redeems us from all our iniquity, through the sacrificial death and glorious resurrection of Jesus, who loves us and gave himself for us as living bread for the life of the world. 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

Readings from God's Word:

Epistles: Ephesians 4:35—5:2

Gospels: John 6:35, 41-51

Sermon "Wonder Bread" the Rev. Bob Phelps

***An Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 542 "Near to the Heart of God"**

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to God's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Spirit of God be with you all. **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord!**
Give thanks to our God! **All our thanks, all our praise....**

...And this is our song:

Holy, holy, holy God, our life, our mercy, our might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Save us, we pray. Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Save us, we pray. You are our hope....

...And so we cry, Mercy! **Mercy!**
And so we cry, Glory! **Glory!**
And so we cry, Blessing! **Blessing....**

....And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit! **Come, Holy Spirit!**
And so the Church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit! **Come, Holy Spirit!**
And so the whole earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit! **Come, Holy Spirit....**

....we pray as our Savior, Jesus, taught us 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

Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and have made us one with Christ. Help us to invite the world to know your salvation and joy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

As Christ loved us and gave himself for us, let us now offer ourselves and our gifts to God!

Offertory

“Grace”

Hamlin

***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

We Go in God’s Name

***Hymn 106**

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

(sing twice)

***Benediction**

God feeds us forever with the Bread of Life and upholds us with steadfast love and faithfulness. Go, knowing that we are blessed, redeemed, and gifted with grace upon grace!

***Charge**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord!

***Postlude**

“Ode to Joy”

Beethoven

Flowers today are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, Bob and Helen Arnold and Tom and Maggie Morrissey, and their former pastor, the Rev. Robert Helm by Bob and Julia Arnold who look forward to being back in worship when Covid lets up some.

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Today: 9:00 am Breakfast in Ewell Martin Room
 9:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Worship

Wednesday: 7:15 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Last Week's Record

8--1--21 Attendance----- 25 here; 59 views on Facebook

Offering, 7-25-21:-----\$1,929.50

8-1—21:-----\$8,371.00

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!

Presbyterian Women Start Up Plan on Hold

Presbyterian Women have put their meeting plans on hold due to the spike in virus cases. They will not meet this week as previously scheduled. The group will meet on Tuesday, September 14, at 11:30 am to begin their new year of Bible study, mission support, and fellowship. We invite all women of the church to participate. See Sarah Ross or Shelli Quayhagen for more information.

A Word About Communion

We welcome all whose faith and trust are in Jesus Christ to receive Communion with us, regardless of denominational or other affiliation. We invite you to come forward to receive the Sacrament or you may remain in the pews and someone will bring the elements to you. Sealed elements and gluten free bread are also available if you prefer them

A Temporary Address for Libby Robinson

Libby Robinson is currently a patient at Haven Hall Healthcare in Brookhaven following her stay in the hospital. The address there is 101 Mills Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601. She is unable to receive visitors, but a card will brighten her day.

No Thursday Bible Study This Week

Our Thursday morning Bible study will not meet this week (August 12). The group will resume its study of the Gospel of John (we're in chapter 10) on Thursday, August 19, at 10:30 am in the Ewell Martin Room. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks, Deanna

While Jennifer is away tending to her mom's medical needs, we are happy to have Deanna at the keyboard today.