

**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
The Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, September 12, 2021, 10:30 am
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Sacrament of Communion**

A Thought Before Worship

We trust the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to hear God's Word with clarity so that we can know God's will for us and for all the world.

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"Living For Jesus"

Auld

***Call to Worship**

Jesus asked the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered him, "The Messiah, our Savior!"

We are gathered here to worship the One who is our Savior

And to follow in Christ's path of love. Let us worship God!

***Prayer for the Day**

God of love, you teach us a way that calls us to deny what is unhealthy and unloving. Lead us in that pathway. Awaken us to the abundance that is ours in your Word, we pray in the name of the One who died and rose, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 593**

"The Gift of Love"

A Reading from the Psalter: Psalm 116:1-9

I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

I walk before the Lord in the land of the living!

A Call to Confession

The Lord listens to the cries of people who turn with full hearts to the One who has abundant mercy. Let us now make full and honest confession in the presence of God and this body.

A Prayer of Confession

Holy God, in the face of sin, our gravest enemy, we call to you for help. You know our faults before we attempt to name them. Forgive us for what we have done in opposition to your will. Forgive us for those things we have not done and for which we know we are accountable. Forgive us when we deny our dependence on you. Lead us away from the grief and sorrow our sin causes. Save us so that we might fulfill our promises to you and attend to the needs of your people. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

God, who is gracious and merciful, knows that we would prefer to avoid Jesus' call to take up our cross. God, who is full of compassion, also knows that when we honestly repent, we set our minds on things that endure for all time. God is a very present help to all who seek to follow in the way of things that last. 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

A Reading from the Gospels: Mark 8:27-38

Sermon "Follow and See!" the Rev. Bob Phelps

***An 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 this 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!

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 216 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to God's Table

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 always right and our greatest joy to give God thanks and praise....

....we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

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....

....Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again....

....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

Most 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 bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mark These Dates

The Session has called two upcoming congregational meetings:

On Sunday, September 19, we will meet to elect an Elder Nominating Committee to nominate elders to serve terms from 2022-2024. Elders Ally Allred, Andrew DeCoux, and Wayne Hutchison will complete their terms at the end of this year.

On Sunday, October 17, we will meet to receive the report of the Elder Nominating Committee and to elect elders to serve terms from 2022-2024.

Both meetings will occur at the conclusion of worship. Please plan to be present.

Flowers

Flowers today are presented to the glory of God by Tommy and Debbi Brock.

Midweek Activities

Midweek activities (supper, study groups, and choir rehearsal) will resume soon. Please indicate your interest and willingness to help mid-week happen by checking the appropriate responses below. You may leave your responses in the offering plate when it passes.

_____ I/We plan to eat here on Wednesdays. Count on _____ (#) from our family.

_____ I'd like to form a cooking team to provide the midweek meal periodically.

_____ I'd prefer that we hire someone to cook each week.

_____ Is the maximum I'm willing to pay per meal on Wednesdays.

Other comments:

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

Thursday: 10:30 am Bible Study—Gospel of John

Last Week's Record

**8--29--21 Attendance----- 28 here; 72 views on Facebook
Offering, 9-5-21:-----\$9630.00**

A Word About Communion

We welcome all who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior to the Table, regardless of church affiliation. We offer several options: If you wish to come forward, our pastor and an elder will serve bread and the cup there. Please let the pastor know if you need gluten-free bread. If you prefer to remain in the pew, there are sealed communion elements available at each entrance. You may take those to your pew and commune while others come forward. If you join us online, we encourage you to prepare bread and juice and join in our celebration there.

The Session will meet next Sunday, September 19, after worship in the Ewell Martin Room. Please keep these who guide the ministry of our congregation in your prayers. This is a rescheduled meeting.

Thanks

Thanks to all who brought supplies for Kennon to take to South Louisiana last week. The Men's Breakfast Group donated many things to this effort. So did several individuals. Thank you for your help.

Opening the Time Capsule

Plan to join us this Wednesday, September 15, at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we open the time capsule that has been in the cornerstone of this building for 100 years. We will serve a light supper and then celebrate the opening of the time capsule together. Please use the insert in today's bulletin to indicate your intention to attend.

Mission Partner Support

Thanks to your faithful giving to the Mission Fund, we were recently able to send support checks to Mission Partners: The Presbyterian World Missions; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Living Waters for the World; Frontera de Cristo; MICA, and the Salvation Army. We also made the first half of our annual payment in support of the ministry of the Presbytery of Mississippi. One of the joys of being part of a connectional Church is in the opportunities we have to do ministry in partnership with others. Thank you for your support.

Some Ways You Can Help Us Help Others

Our Mission Committee continues to find ways for us to help others in our community.

MICA Food Pantry

We thank you for your continuing support of our monthly food collections for the Food Pantry at MICA. We continue to gather non-perishable food and personal hygiene items on the last Sunday of each month. If you are not currently attending worship, you may drop off MICA items at the Church Office any time.

Higgins School Weekend Meals

We have also begun to provide food for the weekends for kids at Higgins School who experience food insecurity on the weekends. We know that many students depend on school breakfasts and lunches for the bulk of their nutrition. This leaves them unsupported on the weekend. We are providing take-home food to several students each weekend. Our Vacation Bible School has provided for the first several weeks. We invite you to bring items to continue this ministry through the school year. There is a list of advisable food items on the front pew. We also invite you to bring personal hygiene items (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene items). We distribute all these items through the School Nurse at Higgins where we have several members and friends on the staff. See Melisa DeCoux for more information.

Winter Suppers

We will also be distributing drive-up meals on Tuesdays during November, December, January, and February in partnership with other downtown churches. Our dates will be November 16, December 21, January 18, and February 15. Be thinking about putting together a team to provide these meals this winter. We've been doing about 25 meals a week. Folks in our community depend on them.

