

**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church  
McComb, Mississippi  
The Service for the Lord's Day  
Sunday, September 19, 2021, 10:30 am  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*A Thought Before Worship*

*God's Word is our wisdom, giving us insight, strength and courage. It opens our hearts and minds to receive what God wants to give.*

*Welcome and Announcements*

**We Gather in God's Name**

**Prelude**

**"Praise Him! Praise Him!**

**Larson**

**\*Call to Worship**

When the world all around us seems to be shaking,  
**God's love is our foothold, which shall never be moved.**  
Then the life within us is dry and parched,  
**God's Word is our wellspring, our fount of living water.**  
We gather to worship the One who offers us wisdom and peace,  
**And teaches us how to serve. Let us worship God!**

**\*Prayer for the Day**

**God of both the first and the last, show us how to walk the path of obedient discipleship without wasting our time thinking about who is more important. Guide our thoughts and our emotions so that we might be like children, not childish, but totally dependent on you, welcoming all with hospitality and love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 317**

**"All People That On Earth Do Dwell"**

**A Reading from the Psalter: Psalm 1**

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers.

**But their delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on his Law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their**

**fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.**

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

**For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish!**

### **A Call to Confession**

Acknowledging that we are easily swayed by the wrong advice and that we stray from the ways of the Lord, let us confess our sin to God, confident that we will find love and mercy.

### **A Prayer of Confession**

**You told us, O Lord, that whoever wants to be first must be last and servant of all. But oh how we live to be first, O God: to climb every ladder, to frame every achievement, to get every promotion, to obtain every glory. Oh, how we love to be first, O God, and oh, how we dread being last. Forgive us, O God, for not listening and understanding. By your forgiveness, teach us. Teach us to reframe our priorities. Teach us to be servants first, and to let our lives flow from hearts of faith. Through Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, we pray. Amen.**

### **Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

God, who loves and sustains us hears our prayer. The Lord wants to offer us welcome into the blessed community of freedom and light. We are forgiven. Remember to welcome others, and you will know, as well your own welcome! 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 9:30-37**

**Sermon**                      **“Servant? Leader?”**                      **the Rev. Bob Phelps**

**\*An Affirmation of Faith**

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that, at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! 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 447                   “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”**

**Offertory Sentence**

Like the child that Jesus held, we thrive best inside the circle of his arms. Let us open our hearts so that the tithes and offerings we bring will bring others into that circle with us.

**Offertory**

**“Jesus Loves Me”  
(based on Debussy’s “Clair de Lune”)**

**Larson**

**\*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 --- 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 72                   “To God Be the Glory”**

**\*Benediction**

May God, who watches over all things, give you the gifts you need to be a capable servant. May Jesus Christ, who welcomes everyone, give you the loving

heart of a child so that you can welcome others unconditionally. May the Holy Spirit, who gives us the understanding we need to love God and one another, give you unselfish and generous hearts so that we can heal the world and live in peace.

**\*Charge**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord!

**\*Postlude**

**“Make Me a Servant”**

**Harlan**

**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
	11:30 am	Congregational Meeting to elect Elder Nominating Committee
	Noon	Session meets—Ewell Martin Room
Wednesday:	7:15 am	Men’s Prayer Breakfast
Thursday:	10:30 am	Bible Study—Gospel of John

**Last Week’s Record**

**9--12--21 Attendance----- 43 here; 68 views on Facebook  
Offering, 9-12-21:-----\$2358.00**

**We have had 198 views of the livestream of Wednesday’s opening of the time capsule. That event and previous worship services are available on the church’s Facebook page.**

**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.

## Join us On Wednesdays Again!!

We were glad to be together again this past Wednesday for the opening of the time capsule and to enjoy fellowship around the tables after a long Covid lay-off. We'll resume our regular schedule on Wednesdays this week. Here's the plan:

5:15 pm We'll serve a light supper and enjoy conversation and fellowship around the table. We'll work on the schedule for cooks. Thanks to those who are helping us get started back up. Please use the slip in today's bulletin to reserve a spot for supper.

6:00 pm. New study for adults: We'll talk about a new book called Lies My Preacher Told Me: An Honest Look at the Old Testament by Brent Strawn. It's an honest come-to-terms with what we really believe about the Old Testament as Christians. Copies of the book are available in print and electronic formats from all the regular places. Having the book is not a requirement for participating in the study. The book goes through ten common misconceptions about the Old Testament. I hope you'll join us.

6:30 pm **Choir rehearsal resumes!** We'll meet in the sanctuary and newcomers are welcome! We'll be working toward singing during Advent and Christmas and some before then. Please plan to join us.