

J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

McComb, Mississippi

The Service for the Lord's Day

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 10:30 am

Second Sunday in Advent

A Thought Before Worship

God will purify our lives so that they can serve God's purposes.

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude **"Angels from the Realms of Glory"** **Carter**

Introit **"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"** **McGee**

(Emmanuel, Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel.)

***Call to Worship**

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance,

He preaches to us still!

He called people then and now to make straight the paths we walk,

And to prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.

Let us worship God!

***A Prayer for the Day**

Covenant God, you have always been faithful to send us messengers to prepare us for your coming. Help us to listen and to hear the message of the Prophets you send today so that we may be prepared to welcome you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 138 “Savior of the Nations, Come!”**

Lighting the Advent Candle: The Candle of Peace

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Somewhere, people gather to sing into the silence:

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole.

For peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate!

As we light the second Advent candle,

We pray for the holy peace of God.

God of Peace, by your Holy Spirit, help us to hear from all the Prophets you continue to send to us. Help us to hear your call to make a way for all who want to come to you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospels: Luke 1:68-79 (The Song of Zechariah)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he had looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty Savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our ancestor, Abraham,

To grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, Child, will be called the Prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

A Call to Confession

Let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident of God's never-failing mercy.

A Prayer of Confession

Cleansing God, we hear your call to repentance, but we struggle to know how to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer the ways we know, even when we know they lead nowhere good. You seek to purify us in love, but we find ways to elude your guiding hand. Our sin leads us in directions we know we don't need to go, away from you, away from your gift of life and purpose. Look with mercy on us. Clear out a place among us so that something new might be born, something that will return us to you and the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Friends, I am confident of this, and I want you to be confident of it, too: If we repent and turn back to God, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. In Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Grateful for the promise of joy and peace, let us share the peace of Christ with one another. Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Presentation of New Member: Shelli Quayhagen

Presentation

Reaffirmation of Faith

Transfer of Membership

Welcome to the Church

We welcome you with joy to the common life of this Church. We promise you our friendship and our prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and, together, be witnesses to our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Hear God's Word

Anthem "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Pethel

(It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King." The word in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing. For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophet see of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing, the angels sing!)

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

Readings from God's Word:

Prophets: Malachi 3:1-4

Gospels: Luke 3:1-6

Sermon "A Voice in the Wilderness" 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. 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 163 “Lo, How a Rose, E'er Blooming”**

The Sacrament of Holy 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 and praise to God.

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

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

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever....

....we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of our faith:

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

....as Jesus taught 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

God of rich and abundant grace, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at the Table and in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the Bread of Life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Now sent us out into the world by the power of your own Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all we meet. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

The harvest of righteousness God calls for from us is not by virtue of our works, but the grace of the One who began a good work among us and is even now bringing that work to completion. Let us bring offerings from the midst of our lives to God.

Offertory "Emmanuel Comes"

Hayes

***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

We Go in God's Name

***Hymn 167** **“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”**

***Benediction**

Go from this place confident that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you always.

***Charge**

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord! Amen.

Postlude **“Prepare the Way, O Zion”** **Allyn**

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Today: 9:00 am Breakfast in the Ewell Martin Room

 9:30 am Sunday School

 10:30 am Worship

Monday: 9 am—7 pm Bell Ringing at WalMart (Grocery side)

Wednesday 7:15 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

 10:00 am Presbytery Cabinet meets on Zoom

 5:15 pm Midweek Supper

 6:00 pm Bible Study

	6:30 pm	Choir rehearsal
Thursday	10:30 am	Bible Study---Philippians
Saturday		Flo's Angels Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall

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 Set Christmas Meeting

The Presbyterian Women will celebrate the Christmas season with a potluck luncheon on Tuesday, December 14, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a special program featuring a message from our pastor as we continue studying the women in Jesus' family tree. Please see Sarah Ross with questions or if you need additional information. All women are encouraged to attend.

Winter Brings Opportunities to Feed on Tuesday Nights

We will be coordinating meals for the hungry of our community with other downtown churches on Tuesday nights during November, December, January, and February. We will serve on the third Tuesday of those months. See Melisa DeCoux to see how you can help with this important ministry. We are in partnership with Centenary United Methodist, First Christian, Church of the Mediator Episcopal and St. Al's Catholic congregations.

Your gifts of food are making a difference in the lives of children at Higgins School. Every weekend, several kids at Higgins receive a pack of food to get them through the weekend. See Melisa DeCoux for more information about how you can help. Thanks to the PW for their help in assembling food bags.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We'll ring bells for the Salvation Army on two more Mondays during the holiday season: Tomorrow, December 6 at WalMart (Grocery side) and Monday, December 13, at McComb Market. Sign up sheets are on the front pew. Thanks for helping us help others.