

J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)



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**J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
The Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, November 28, 2021, 10:30 am
First Sunday in Advent**

A Thought Before Worship

There is wisdom, peace, and joy for all who keep God's Word in faith.

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude	"Ukrainian Bell Carol"	Berry
Introit	"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"	McGee

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

***Call to Worship**

When will God's promises be fulfilled?

The days are surely coming!

When will we know salvation and hope?

The days are surely coming!

How will we know God's plan is unfolding?

The days are surely coming when a branch from David shall come forth to execute justice and righteousness in the land.

What should we do when we see these things beginning?

We will lift up our heads for our redemption is drawing near!

Let us worship God!

***A Prayer for the Day**

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer so that we may live with confidence and joy as we wait for the coming of Christ, our Redeemer and Lord! Amen

***Hymn 133 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

Lighting the Advent Candle: The Candle of Hope

The world says, "All is lost. Despair rules."

But God says, "All are loved. Love is the final word!"

The darkness says, "The light is dying. Despair rules."

But the Light says, "The fire is catching. Hope is not lost!"

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears and be afraid!"

But Hope says, "Watch, wait, and listen!"

As we light the first Advent candle today,

We pray for the holy hope of God.

Come now, O Christ, Child of Mary!

Come now, O sure sign of God's hope!

God, our Hope, there is indeed wisdom, peace, and joy for all who keep your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

A Reading from the Psalter: Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust. Do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you to be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation. For you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

A Call to Confession

In this busy season, many voices make claims on our attention, our time, and our dollars. At this font only one Voice claims our lives, soul, body, mind, and heart. In humility, let us confess our faults to the Voice that offers us forgiveness and hope.

A Prayer of Confession

Christ who is coming, we confess that you will probably not find us as you hoped. We've turned away from signs of your presence that we do not wish to see. We've stopped listening to calls we don't want to hear. We grow numb to inconvenient truth. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors and of this community. Revive our hearts when we grow weary with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds. Sober our lives. Show us the signs of your coming so that we may always stand with Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Hear the Good News: The Lord will guide our way, strengthen us in all goodness, and show us how to abound in love for one another, and for all people. Believe 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!

We Hear God's Word

Anthem

"Prepare"

Larson

Prepare, prepare for the coming of the Lord; in the desert prepare a road. Every valley shall be lifted up, each mountain and hill made low. Prepare, prepare for the coming of the Lord in the desert prepare a road. Every valley shall be lifted high, each mountain and hill made low. All you who 'wait the coming, rehearse the joyful song, a song that shall be sung forever with voices clear and strong! Prepare, prepare for the coming of the Lord, in the desert prepare a road. Every valley shall be lifted high, each mountain and hill made low. With hearts and hands and voices we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free. Prepare, prepare for the coming of the Lord, in the desert prepare a road. Every valley shall be lifted high, each mountain and hill made low. Prepare, prepare for the coming of the Lord, in the desert prepare a road. Every valley shall be lifted high, each mountain and hill made low. Prepare for the coming of the Lord!

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

Readings from God's Word:

Prophets: Jeremiah 33:4-16
Gospels: Luke 21:25-31

Sermon

"The Day is Surely Coming"

the Rev. Bob Phelps

***An Affirmation of Faith from the Confession of 1967**

Out of Israel, in due time God raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of a new creation, and the pioneer of a new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the Church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. 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 145**

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Offertory Sentence

Trusting in the sure and certain promises of God and grateful for the Spirit's sustaining power, let us bring our tithes and offerings for the work of God's Church.

Offertory

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

McDonald

***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 135**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

***Benediction**

May God's mercy keep you, the Holy Spirit bring you cheer, and the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord, greet you now and on the day of his coming.

***Charge**

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

Postlude

"People, Look East"

Larson

Flowers today are presented to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for all his many blessings by Maxine Brock.

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	Celebration with the Singleys
	6:30 pm	Choir rehearsal
Thursday	10:30 am	Bible Study---Philippians

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!

November 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.

Chicken on a Stick for Missions

Thanks to all who helped make our Chicken on a Stick fundraiser for Missions a success. We made just over \$2700.00 which we'll distribute to Mission Partners before year end. Thanks for helping us help others

It's a Baby!

Kennon and Heidi Singley will welcome a new baby around Christmas. They have chosen not to know the gender ahead of time. Kennon coordinated (and cooked) our Wednesday suppers for a long time before moving to Louisiana. We will celebrate with Kennon and Heidi and their upcoming baby on Wednesday, December 1. We'll plan a special menu and celebration. They have a baby registry at babylist.com. A printed copy of the registry is available, too. Please plan to help us welcome this new little one on December 1.

Help Us Feed Kids at Higgins

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.

Meistersingers Christmas Concert

The Meistersingers, a chamber choir in Hattiesburg, will present a concert of Christmas music on Saturday, December 4, at 3:00 pm at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg. Our pastor sings in this choir. Donations will be accepted.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We'll ring bells for the Salvation Army on three Mondays during the holiday season: Monday, November 29 and 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.

An Update From the Session

Your Session is aware that there are many questions as our Pastor moves toward retirement at the end of the year. We will keep you informed throughout this process. Please keep Session members in your prayers and communicate with them as questions arise.

Pastoral change, like most things in the Presbyterian Church, is a process. When Bob leaves, the Rev. Joan Gandy, Pastor at First Church, Natchez, will become the Moderator of our Session. Joan will work to guide our Session through the process of calling a new Pastor. Joan will meet with the Session on December 12. Following that meeting, the Session will begin the process of selecting a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC and the Session will determine our needs and goals for the search process and coordinate with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry to get information about our pastoral position posted on the denominational placement website.

In the meantime, we have secured visiting preachers for the early part of next year. Incoming Elder Suzi Drummond is shouldering this responsibility.

Please keep the members of our Session in your prayers as they guide us through this process. As questions arise please communicate with them.

Beginning in January, your Session will be comprised of Tommy Ratcliff, Joseph Spurgeon, Beth Wild, Dennis Ross, Randy White, Rusty Whittington, Melisa DeCoux, Suzi Drummond, and Whitney Rawlings. Elders Ally Allred, Andrew DeCoux, and Wayne Hutchison will complete their terms next month.