

# J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)



Rev. Cassie Alston, Pastor  
Corner of Third and Delaware Streets  
110 Third Street  
McComb, Mississippi 39648  
(601) 684-4189



## J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 15, 2024 • 10:30 AM

### Gathering

**Prelude** *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* arr. Pepper Choplin

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Cassie Alston

**Introit** *Come Down, Lord* Stan Pethel

**Call to Worship** *Ps. 116:5, 9*

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;  
**our God is full of compassion.**  
Let us walk in the presence of the Lord  
**in the land of the living, through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

#### Opening Prayer

God of love, you teach us a life journey that calls us to deny all that is unhealthy and unloving. Lead us in that pathway. Awaken us to the ever-new abundance that is ours through your Word, in the name of the one who died and rose, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 20** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* ODE TO JOY

**Call to Confession** *Col. 2:12*

We have been buried with Christ in baptism, in order that we might be raised to new life with him, through faith in the power of God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

## Prayer of Confession

For failing to love others as you have loved us... God of grace, **forgive us.**  
For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods... God of grace, **forgive us.**  
For plundering the earth and abusing the planet... God of grace, **forgive us.**  
For fearing those who are strange to us and ignoring those in need... God of grace, **forgive us.**  
For losing heart and abandoning hope... God of grace, **forgive us.**  
For all the ways we turn from you... God of grace, **forgive us.**  
We offer our prayers in the name of the One who saves us, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. God's grace is poured out upon us day by day. Come to the water and remember your baptism. Be thankful and live as one who has been raised to new life! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

## Word

**Anthem** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* arr. Larry Pugh

## Prayer for Illumination

You speak to us, Lord, with tongues of wisdom. Let your Holy Spirit now open us to hear with greater clarity the teachings of today, that we may hold dear in yet new ways what it is you will for us, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Scripture:** *Psalm 116:1-9; Mark 8:27-38*

**Sermon** *But Who Do You Say That I Am?* Rev. Cassie Alston

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

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he will come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 805** *Glory Be to the Father* GREATOREX  
*Gloria Patri*

**\*Hymn No. 519** *It Is Well with My Soul* VILLE DU HAVRE

**The Invitation to the Offering** *Ps. 24:1*

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,  
**the world, and those who live in it.**  
Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

**Offertory** *Jesus Is All the World to Me* arr. Marianne Kim

**\*Hymn No. 809** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Doxology*

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayers of the People and The 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. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Sending

**\*Hymn No. 576** *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* ASSAM

### \*Charge and Benediction

Go now into the world in peace, have courage, hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; loving and serving the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The blessings of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever. Amen.

**Postlude** *How Great Thou Art* arr. Lloyd Larson

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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## Announcements

### Welcome to worship!

All who worship here are joyfully welcomed into our midst! To our visitors, we offer a special welcome and invite you to join us again soon. Please fill out the blue card in your pew and place it in the offering plate when passed.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study

Please join us on Thursdays at 10:30 AM in the Ewell Martin Room as we read and discuss God's word to us in Scripture. We are studying *The Gospel of Luke*. All are welcome!

## Let's gather this evening for prayer!

J.J. White Memorial is a praying church, and you are invited to gather with church family and friends for prayer. If you are interested in gathering regularly with a small group for prayer, please come to an initial meeting on Sunday, September 15, at 5:00 at Rev. Cassie and Sheldon Alston's home (805 Park St., McComb). Let's pray together!

### Congregational Meeting on September 22

A congregational meeting of J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church will be held Sunday, September 22, 2024, immediately following the service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect three Elders for the term 2025-2027. The Elder Nominating Committee will provide a slate of three nominees to the congregation: Harrell Ables, Susan White, and Lee Williams. Thanks to the nominees for their willingness to serve. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

**Record from Last Sunday** *Attendance: 62* Offering: \$8,726.00

### Upcoming Events at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Today	5:00 PM	<b>Prayer Gathering</b> (805 Park St.)
Wednesday, 9/18	7:15 AM	<b>Men's Prayer Breakfast</b> (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, 9/19	10:30 AM	<b>Bible Study</b> (Ewell Martin Room)
	5:00 PM	<b>Knotty Knitters</b> (Ewell Martin Room)
Sunday, 9/22	10:30	<b>Worship</b> , followed by <b>congregational meeting</b> to elect Elders

### The Session

<i>Rev. Cassie Alston, moderator</i>		
<b>Class of 2024</b>	<b>Class of 2025</b>	<b>Class of 2026</b>
Melisa DeCoux <i>Christian Education</i>	Tommy Brock <i>Property</i>	Sam Daniel <i>Fellowship &amp; Evangelism</i>
Suzi Drummond <i>Government</i>	Linda Miller <i>Congregational Care</i>	Robbie DeCoux <i>Missions</i>
Whitney Rawlings <i>Worship</i>	Noggin Wild <i>Clerk of Session</i>	Sarah Ross <i>Finance &amp; Stewardship</i>

## Questions for Reflection

When we hear Jesus say we are to “deny” ourselves, this can seem strangely harsh language, and it is well that each of us knows what it means in our own lives. You are made in God’s image. As an image of the divine, God does not command you to be nothing. You are not to be denigrated. What aspects of your life, your desires, your tendencies, do you recognize as impeding your ability to set your mind on what you truly want and need? What is your cross? Perhaps you see more than one cross you must bear. If you “take up” your cross (or crosses), how might you live differently than you do now?

## Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you, God, for this good night and day, for time to sleep and wake, for dark and light, for silence and noise, for stillness and movement, for my body, mind, and heart. Give me the strength today to bear my cross with patience so that whoever I meet will find a moment of calm in my presence because of you. I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for this good day and now for night, for all that has transpired in the last hours, for the food I have been given, for the work I have to do, for the exercise, for breathing, for what my ears have heard, for friends, for coworkers, and for what I have seen growing in the soil and shining in the sunlight. Guard me now as I sleep and give me good rest for the sake of the tasks you have set before me tomorrow. I pray for your peace, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

(Long, Kimberly Bracken, ed. *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year B, vol. 1.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014, p. 170-171)

## Sanctuary Flowers

Happy Birthday, Mary Ann Ratcliff! We have missed you and Tommy! We look forward to having you home! Love, Your J.J. White Family.

## J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

### Sundays

*Breakfast:* 9:00 AM

*Sunday School:* 9:30 AM

*Worship:* 10:30 AM

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110 Third Street

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Church Office Open Monday – Friday

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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