

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)



Rev. Cassie Alston, Pastor

Jennifer Sanders, Director of Music Ministry

Glenn Sanders, Choir Director

Corner of Third and Delaware Streets

110 Third Street

McComb, Mississippi 39648

(601) 684-4189



J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude *All Things Bright and Beautiful* arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Cassie Alston

Introit *O How He Loves You and Me* Kurt Kaiser

***Call to Worship** *Mark 1:10-11; Ps. 29:3,9*

The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,
and a voice sounded: This is my beloved Son.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters,
and in the temple, God's people say glory!

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

***Opening Prayer** *Ps. 29:9; Mark 1:8*

God of heaven and earth, we gather in the name of Jesus to worship you. Immerse us in your Spirit. Speak to us with grace and truth and pour out your love upon us so that this temple may resound with joyful shouts of glory; through Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Call to Confession *Rom. 5:8; Heb. 4:16*

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Because we were buried with Christ in the waters of baptism, we are also raised to life with him. Believe the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

Summary of the Law

John 13:34

Hear the teaching of Christ:

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Word

Prayer for Illumination

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God. Tear open the veil of heaven and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Galatians 4:4-7; Mark 1:4-11*

Sermon

A Child of God

Rev. Cassie Alston

*Hymn No. 805

Gloria Patri

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

The Sacrament of Baptism

Presentation

Rev. Cassie Alston

Matt. 28:18-20

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Elder Robbie DeCoux

Eph. 4:4-6

Hear also these words from holy scripture:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Rev. Cassie Alston

Obedying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice. Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

Elder Robbie DeCoux

On behalf of the session, I present Rebecca Elizabeth, child of Maragaret Ann and Brandon, to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

Rev. Cassie Alston

Margaret Ann and Brandon, do you desire that Rebecca be baptized?
(Parents respond.) **I do.**

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your child?

(Parents respond.) **I do.**

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Rebecca by word and deed, with love and prayer?

(Congregation responds.) **We do.**

Will we encourage her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?

(Congregation responds.) **We will.**

Profession of Faith

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we enter the covenant God established in Jesus Christ. Within this covenant God gives us new life, strengthens us to resist evil, and nurtures us in love. Through this covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

Margaret Ann and Brandon, trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

(Parents respond.) **I do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior?

(Parents respond.) **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

(Parents respond.) **I will, with God's help.**

With the whole church, let us stand and confess our faith, using the words of 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.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood, giving righteousness a new beginning. You led Israel out of slavery, through the waters of the sea, into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Christ set us free from sin and death and opened the way to eternal life. We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. From it we are raised to share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Send your Spirit to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life and graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Rebecca, that she may have power to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever. **Amen.**

Declaration

Rev. Cassie Alston

Rebecca, for you Jesus Christ came into the world: for you he lived and showed God's love; for you he suffered the darkness of Calvary and cried at the last, "It is accomplished"; for you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life; for you he ascended to rule over all. All this he did for you, Rebecca, though you do not know it yet. And so the word of scripture is fulfilled: We love because God first loved us.

The Baptism

Rebecca Elizabeth, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Laying on of Hands

O Lord, uphold Rebecca by your Holy Spirit. Give her the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Rebecca Elizabeth, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

Phil. 1:6

God who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Welcome

Elder Robbie DeCoux

Rebecca, you have been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through Baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have become a member of the household of God, to share with us in the ministry of Christ and the priesthood of all believers. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into the body of Christ. **Alleluia! Amen!**

Special Music

The Prayer D. Foster and C. Bayer Sager
Jeremy Threlfall, tenor

The Invitation to the Offering

Matt. 10:8

Let us return to God the offering of our life and the gifts of the earth.

Offertory

Jesus Loves Me arr. Fred Bock
(Based on Debussy's *Clair de Lune*)

*Hymn No. 809

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, O God, for every blessing and spiritual gift you have poured out upon us. Let the gifts of our lives be a source of blessing in your world, all to the glory of your holy name. **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. 758

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

arr. Cindy Berry

**Please stand as you are able.*

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.

Baptism of Rebecca Elizabeth Macloud

Today we celebrate the baptism of Rebecca Macloud, daughter of Margaret Ann and Brandon Macloud. We joyfully welcome Rebecca as a child of the covenant and beloved member of God's family of faith!

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee

Thank you to Elder Susan White, members of the Fellowship Committee, and everyone who provided food for the wonderful Souper Bowl luncheon last Sunday! We enjoyed a delicious meal, delightful fellowship, and amazing half-time entertainment, all while collecting food and raising money to feed hungry people. Thank you to everyone who helped make the luncheon such a wonderful event!

Tuesday Meals for the Hungry

The Missions Committee needs your help feeding the hungry! November - February, J.J. White will provide Tuesday evening meals for people in need, together with Centenary Methodist and the Episcopal church. J.J. White is responsible for one meal a month plus any fifth Tuesdays. We prepare about 45 simple meals, such as spaghetti or chili, along with bread and a small dessert. The other churches bring their food here, and all meals are served from J.J. White. If you are interested in cooking or helping serve, please contact Robbie DeCoux.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Please join us at 10:30 AM on Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall as we read and discuss the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome!

Prayer Groups

You are invited to gather with church family and friends for prayer. Two prayer groups meet weekly, and gatherings last no more than an hour. Please come to the gathering that fits your schedule, and let's go to God in prayer.

Wednesdays at 4:00 PM at the home of Nancy and Harrell Ables (1503 Vermont Ave.)

Thursdays at 9:00 AM at the home of Suzi and John Drummond (919 N. James St.)

New Youth Sunday School and Confirmation Class

All middle and high school-aged youth are invited to a new, 12-week Sunday school study! We'll meet Sundays from 9:15-10:00 AM. The class will be led by Rev. Alston and volunteers from the congregation and will prepare those who wish to make a public profession of faith to be Confirmed in May. All youth, including those already Confirmed, are invited and encouraged to participate! "Drop-ins" are welcome!

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 72

Offering: \$4,376.00

Upcoming Events

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| Tuesday, 2/18 | 4:00 PM | Tuesday Night Meals for the Hungry |
| Wednesday, 2/19 | 7:15 AM | Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 4:00 PM | Prayer Group (1503 Vermont Ave.) |
| Thursday, 2/20 | 9:00 AM | Prayer Group (919 N. James St.) |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 5:00 PM | Knutty Knitters (Ewell Martin Room) |
| Sunday, 2/23 | 9:00 AM | Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room) |
| | 9:15 AM | Youth Sunday School (Youth Room) |
| | 9:30 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship: Rev. Chris Richardson |

The Session

Rev. Cassie Alston, moderator

Class of 2025

Tommy Brock
Property

Linda Miller
Congregational Care

Noggin Wild
Clerk of Session

Class of 2026

Sam Daniel
Finance & Stewardship

Robbie DeCoux
Missions

Sarah Ross
Government

Class of 2027

Harrell Ables
Christian Ed. & Evangelism

Susan White
Fellowship

Lee Williams
Worship

Questions for Reflection:

What is the difference between baptism with water alone (John's baptism; see Acts 19:3, Mark 1:8) and baptism with the Holy Spirit (baptism into Jesus; see Acts 19:4-5; Mark 1:8)? Why is it still important to use water in baptism? What does water mean in your daily life? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in baptism? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in your daily life?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, we begin this new day in the sure and certain knowledge that you have claimed us as your children. In all that we do, keep us mindful of actions that are

pleasing in your sight. In all that we say, make us attentive to the witness we give to your love. Let our lives be an example to all whom we encounter, living as daughters and sons of God who follow in the path of Jesus, our Lord and our brother. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As evening comes and we end the labors of this day, we thank you, Lord Jesus, that you have been our companion. If we have disregarded your fellowship, forgive us. Where we have strayed from your path, correct us. Let us rest this evening as children of God, sheltered in the love of those who belong to your holy family of grace. Amen.

Worship Greeters

Thank you to today's worship greeters Lee and Stephen Williams, Whit, Lydia, and Burke.

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Margaret Ann and Brandon Macloud in honor of their daughter Rebecca Elizabeth Macloud, for her baptism.

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Sundays

Breakfast: 9:00 AM

Sunday School: 9:30 AM

Worship: 10:30 AM

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