

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

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Chris Richrdson

Introit *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

***Call to Worship** *Ps. 37:4-5, 7, 39*

Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God's actions.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.

***Hymn No. 62** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIIO

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

God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace – to meet hatred with kindness, to answer curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Call to Confession *1 John 1:8-9*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Luke 6:35-39

Children of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord we have received grace in good measure, spilling out and running over. 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

Anthem

Trust in the Lord and Do Good

J. Martin & J.P. Williams

Prayer for Illumination

Gen. 45:3-11, 15

Gracious God, by your Word you provide all we need – for salvation, for wholeness, for abundant life. Now draw us close in your Spirit so that we may discover your will and live according to your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Luke 6:27-38*

Sermon

Love Beyond Valentine's Day

Rev. Chris Richardson

*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. 297

Spirit of the Living God

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

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

Be Still, My Soul

arr. Jay Rouse

*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 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. 558**
(vv. 1,2,4)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Shine, Jesus, Shine

arr. Mark Hayes

**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.

Welcome to the Reverend Chris Richardson

Rev. Richardson works part-time as a chaplain for Arden Ministries and is an elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. Rev. Richardson is a graduate of Duke Divinity School. She is married to her husband, Dr. Kevin Richardson. They have three children: Colin, Brooke, and Emma.

MICA Collection Sunday

Next Sunday, March 2, we will celebrate Communion and collect donations for the food pantry at McComb Interdenominational Care Association (MICA). MICA provides critical nutrition to hungry individuals and families in Pike County. From the Lord's Table, we are sent to feed others as we have been fed. Please give generously to MICA next Sunday!

Ash Wednesday Service: March 5, 2025 6:00 p.m.

The season of Lent is a time of repentance and growth in faith through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday. Please make plans to begin this year's Lenten journey by participating in the Ash Wednesday Service, including the imposition of ashes, on Wednesday, March 5, at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Nights During Lent: Dinner and Bible Study

The Fellowship Committee and Rev. Alston will be hosting Wednesday night meals and a Lenten Bible study, Meeting Jesus at the Table, beginning Wednesday, March 12 through April 9, 5:15-6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

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: 74*

Offering: \$5,887.00

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 2/25	4:00 PM	Tuesday Night Meals for the Hungry
Wednesday, 2/26	7:15 AM 4:00 PM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) Prayer Group (1503 Vermont Ave.)
Thursday, 2/27	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:00 PM	Prayer Group (919 N. James St.) Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) Knotty Knitters (Ewell Martin Room)
Sunday, 3/1	9:00 AM 9:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room) Youth Sunday School (Youth Room) Sunday School Worship: Transfiguration of the Lord, Communion, and MICA Sunday
Wednesday, 3/5	6:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service

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:

How has God sent you to be a preserver of what is good and healthy? How is your family living up to the wisdom that Joseph showed in caring for the people of Egypt and, eventually, even his own kin?

Household Prayer: Morning

In the morning when I rise, O God, you are with me strong and sure, turning my dreams into insights and teaching me the delights of your law. You preserve my life day after day, and in return, I rejoice at the new dawn. Guard my waiting this day, O Lord, guide my feet and my hands, give me stillness and patience so that I may give delight to those I meet; in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, throughout this day you have rescued us from harm and despair, giving us instead the joy of accomplishment and fellowship. Protect us through the night, Holy One, that in our dreams we will not be shaken but will see you and wake renewed. We take refuge in you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship Greeters

Thank you to today's worship greeters Melisa and Andrew DeCoux.

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Debbi and Tommy Brock in honor and appreciation of the J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Chancel Choir.

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Sundays *Breakfast: 9:00 AM • Sunday School: 9:30 AM • Worship: 10:30 AM*

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