

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

First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude *For the Fruit of All Creation* arr. Jane Holstein

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Cassie Alston

Introit *There Is a Redeemer* Melody Green

***Call to Worship** *Matt. 4:10; Rom. 10:8, 13*

Tested by the devil in the wilderness, Jesus said:

You shall worship the Lord your God alone.

The word of God is near to us.

Call on the Lord and you will be saved.

***Hymn No. 43** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN' FESTE BURG

***Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Litany for Lent

For forty days and nights the rain fell, and the waters covered the face of the earth.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

For forty years the people wandered, seeking the land of God's promise.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Moses spent forty days on the mountain, learning the commandments of God.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness to hear the voice of God in the silence.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jonah cried out to the people of Nineveh: Repent, or in forty days you will perish.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by the devil.

Lead us, O Lord, from death to life.

Eternal God, as we are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, so give us the grace of repentance that we may pass through the grave with him and be born again to eternal life. For he is the One who was crucified, dead, and buried, and rose again for us, Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Rom. 5:8

This is the proof of God’s great love: that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

Summary of the Law

Matt. 22:37-40

Our Lord Jesus said:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Word

Anthem

On Eagle’s Wings

arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Psalm 91; Luke 4:1-14*

Sermon

Rev. Cassie Alston

***Hymn No. 805**

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

Gloria Patri

***Hymn No. 200**

Lord, Who Throughout

LAND OF REST

The Invitation to the Offering

Rom. 6:13

Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life and let us return to God the gifts of the earth.

Offertory

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

arr. Larry Shackley

***Hymn No. 809**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, who called us from death to life, we give ourselves and these our offerings to you, and with the church through all the ages, we thank you for your saving love in 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. 193** *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* PUER NOBIS
(vv. 1-2, 4-6)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *The Glory of These Forty Days* ERHALT UNS, HERR

**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.

Thank you for MICA Donations

Thank you to all who gave so generously to MICA last Sunday. J.J. White donated over twenty-eight bags of food to the pantry! Donations will provide critical nutrition for hungry people in Pike County, and Jesus tells us that whatever we do for our hungry brothers and sisters, we do for him (*Matthew 25:35-40*). Thank you to everyone who contributed and all who helped deliver donations.

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. Participants are invited to bring food donations for MICA. All are welcome!

The Bible study will be based on portions of *Meeting Jesus at the Table: A Lenten Study* by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr (Westminster John Know Press, 2023).

3/12	Dining Alfresco	John 6:1-14
3/19	The Welcome Table	Matthew 9:9-13
3/26	Dinner Interrupted	Luke 7:36-50
4/2	Excuses and Invitations	Luke 14:15-24
4/9	Not the Last Supper	Matthew 26:17-30; Luke 24:13-35

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.)

Congregational Meeting Next Sunday

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, March 16, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is for the Session to present the 2025 budget to the congregation.

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 62

Offering: \$17,536.00

Upcoming Events

Today, 3/9	11:45 AM	Session Meeting (Ewell Martin Room)
Tuesday, 3/11	11:30 AM	Presbyterian Women's (PW) Bible Study (150 Jayess Road, Tylertown; contact Sarah Ross for more information)
Wednesday, 3/12	7:15 AM 4:00 PM 5:15 PM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) Prayer Group (1503 Vermont Ave.) Dinner and Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, 3/13	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, 3/16	9:00 AM 9:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room) Youth Sunday School (Youth Room) Sunday School Worship: Second Sunday in Lent; Congregational Meeting

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:

In Luke 4:1-13, the devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread, to take control of the kingdoms of the world, and to perform a spectacular stunt that would "wow the crowd." Jesus refused to take control in these ways. Instead, Jesus chose another way to feed hungry people, to demonstrate what the kingdom of God looks like, and to enter Jerusalem humbly. Why do you think Jesus chose another way to do justice, and what are some ways that you and your faith community practice justice in his name?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, all night I slept in your shadow, sheltered by you. As I enter into the gift of this day, I trust that you are with me. May I see signs and wonders of your presence in the world today, for you alone are God. I ask that that this day afford me opportunities to celebrate and share with others the abundance of your grace and love. Help me to be open to all people you bring my way, for you yourself make no distinctions, but are Lord of all. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall, I rest in you. Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day. Thank you, too, for every person who offered me grace, and for those to whom I could also show grace. I pray this night for all who long to see a sign of your power in the darkness that surrounds them. Be near them and show them your salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship Greeters

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

Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers are given by Vicki Craghead in memory of Jeffrey Craghead.

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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

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