

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

Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Holy Ground* arr. Phillip Keveren

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Cassie Alston

Introit *Blessed Be the Tie that Binds* arr. James Koerts

***Call to Worship** *Ps. 63:1-5*

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live:
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
My soul will be satisfied as with the richest feast;
With singing lips, my mouth will praise you!

***Hymn No. 45** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

***Opening Prayer**

Eternal God, your glory and power surround us in the sanctuary. We lift up our hands and call on your name. We are your people, thirsty for the living water you alone can give. When we consider how you have helped us, giving us a spring that gushes up to eternal life, we cling to you, singing praises with joyful lips, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Everyone who thirsts:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

All who are hungry for righteousness:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

All who need the help of God:

Come to the waters, seek the Lord, repent and return so that you may live.

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be. We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Through the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised with him. With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ.

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Lloyd Larson

featuring Bridget Regan, soprano

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, fountain of every blessing, pour out your Holy Spirit and open us to your life-giving Word. Nourish us that we may grow in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 55:1-9*

Gospel Reading: *Luke 13:1-9*

Sermon

Now Is the Time

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. 502

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

The Invitation to the Offering

Rom. 6:13

Disciples of Jesus, children of God, we often spend our money on that which is not true bread and labor toward things that will never satisfy. In our offering, we give the things that are of God: bread for the hungry, good news for those who are oppressed, the ministries of the church that welcome strangers and sons and daughters. We bring to God our very lives and a portion of all that God has so freely given to us.

Offertory

My Jesus, I Love Thee
Bridget Regan, soprano

arr. DanForrest

*Hymn No. 809

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us. By these gifts we now share, may others know of your providence and care. Send us – not only our offerings, but our very selves – to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere, at the one Table you have set. **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. 486

There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

arr. Clarence Walworth

***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 our guest soloist Bridget Regan!

Bridget Regan, soprano, is a native of Magnolia. After graduating from McComb High School, she attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and remained there for ten years. Bridget went on to earn a bachelors in psychology from the City University of New York and a masters in special education from Mississippi State. Bridget is a hospital school teacher at Children's of Mississippi in Jackson.

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

Easter Lilies

Forms for ordering Easter lilies are available at entrances to the sanctuary. If you would like to place Easter lilies in memory or honor of individuals or in celebration of a special event, please complete a form and place it in the offering plate or drop it by the church office. Lilies are \$18.00 each.

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 67

Offering: \$4,350.00

Upcoming Events

Today, 3/23	4:00 PM	Prayer Group (1503 Vermont Ave.)
Wednesday, 3/26	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
	5:15 PM	Dinner and Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, 3/27	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, 3/30	9:00 AM	Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room)
	9:15 AM	Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship: Fourth Sunday in Lent

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:

Luke 13:1-9 tells the story of a fruitless fig tree that the owner is ready to cut down. The gardener, however, asks for a little more time. The gardener wants to tend and cultivate the soil in the hope that figs may yet grow. The gardener is open to a different future for this tree, in spite of

its present condition. As I think about my own life, or the life of someone I love, in relationship to this story: What needs special tending? What will cultivate the "soil" of daily life so that new growth, new possibilities, might emerge? And what can I learn from this gardener about allowing a different outcome, a new possibility?

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God, this new day carries the potential for growth and new life. Help me to attend to those things that need care and attention. Sow your word in me that I may grow in faithfulness and understanding. Shake me out of dull routines so that I may take part in the good news you continue to tell urgently and passionately. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As I lie down this night in the shadow of your wings, God of my life, I know that you will be with me even as you have helped me through this day. Whether I am weary from the day or whether the day has been a rich feast of blessings, I give thanks for your power and glory, which are present in every circumstance. As I give myself over to rest and sleep, I remember that your steadfast love is better than life. So, I pray, surround me with your love tonight and always. In the peace of Christ I pray. Amen.

Worship Greeters

Thank you to today's worship greeters India Warshauer and Brad Woods.

Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers are given by Sharon White in honor of our hardworking Session members.

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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

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