

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

arr. Pepper Choplin

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cassie Alston

Introit

There Is a Redeemer

Melody Green

***Call to Worship**

In Christ there is a new creation.

The old has passed away; everything is new!

***Hymn No. 558**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

***Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, seeker of the lost, draw your children back to your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as sons and daughters, and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling love to all the world. Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Scripture promises us that no matter how far we stray from God's ways, when we make the decision to return to God, God runs to greet us with open arms. Trusting in the never-failing mercy of the Lord, let us turn to God together by confessing our sins.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Luke 15:20

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child, so God embraces all who return in true repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

Lord, I Know I Been Changed

arr. Larry Shackley

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32*

Sermon

The Gracious Father

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. 506

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

VOX DILECTI

The Invitation to the Offering

Rom. 6:13

As people of the New Creation, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory

Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Mary McDonald

*Hymn No. 809

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

... let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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. 72

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Living for Jesus a Life That Is True

arr. Clarence Kohlmann

**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.

Outdoor Workday this Saturday, April 5

It's time for a Spring spruce-up! Please come to the church on Saturday, April 5, at 8:00 AM for an outdoor workday. We will work with the Property Committee to get the church grounds looking great as we prepare to celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

MICA Collection Sunday

Next Sunday, April 6, 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!

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

Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13, when we will remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a palm processional. All children, grandchildren, and friends are invited to participate!

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.

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir Anthem Schedule

4/6	Fifth Sunday in Lent: <i>Behold the Love, the Grace of God</i>	Mary Ann Ratcliff, soprano; Matthew Warren, cello
4/13	Palm Sunday: <i>The Holy City</i>	Jeremy Threlfall, tenor; Ben Bullock, trumpet
4/20	Easter Sunday: <i>Crown Him Lord of All; Worthy is the Lamb; The Lord's Prayer</i>	Dierdre Reynolds, alto; Jeremy Threlfall, tenor; Dr. LaTannia Ellerbe, violin

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 53

Offering: \$5,021.00

Upcoming Events

Today, 3/30	4:00 PM	Prayer Group (1503 Vermont Ave.)
Wednesday, 4/2	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
	5:15 PM	Dinner and Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, 4/3	9:00 AM	Prayer Group (919 N. James St.)
	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 PM	Knutty Knitters (Ewell Martin Room)
Saturday, 4/5	8:00 AM	Outdoor Workday
Sunday, 4/6	9:00 AM	Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room)
	9:15 AM	Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship: Fifth Sunday in Lent (Communion, MICA Sunday)
Sunday, 4/13	10:30 AM	Worship: Palm Sunday (Palm Processional)

The Session

<i>Rev. Cassie Alston, moderator</i>		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Tommy Brock <i>Property</i>	Sam Daniel <i>Finance & Stewardship</i>	Harrell Ables <i>Christian Ed. & Evangelism</i>
Linda Miller <i>Congregational Care</i>	Robbie DeCoux <i>Missions</i>	Susan White <i>Fellowship</i>
Noggin Wild <i>Clerk of Session</i>	Sarah Ross <i>Government</i>	Lee Williams <i>Worship</i>

Questions for Reflection:

In what ways am I like the Prodigal Son? In what ways am I like the elder son?

Household Prayer: Morning

2 Cor. 5:16

Loving God, in all I do this day, use me as a sign of your reconciling love. Let me not view anyone from a human point of view but let me see all whom I will encounter with the eyes of Christ, though whom I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God, if like the Prodigal Son I have strayed from you this day, call me back to your loving embrace. If like the elder son, I have harbored resentment for the grace you give to others, reprove me. Help me claim in thought and deed the inheritance of the saints who share with Jesus compassion and forgiveness to all who lose their way. Amen.

Worship Greeters

Thank you to the Allred family for serving as today's worship greeters.

Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers are given by Karen and Keith Sanders in memory of Karey and Louise Andrews, Charlie and Gene Sanders, and Leslie Sanders Pigott.

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

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Email jjwhitememorial@gmail.com • Web www.jjwhitememorial.org

Facebook JJWhiteMPC