

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 6, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude

How Great Thou Art

arr. Bill Galliford, Jr.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cassie Alston

Introit

There Is a Redeemer

Melody Green

*Call to Worship

Ps. 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouths were filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we were filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

*Hymn No. 77

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Opening Prayer

Almighty God, Redeemer of all who trust in you, heed the cry of your people;
deliver us from the bondage of sin, that we may serve you in perfect freedom and

rejoice in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and 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. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you. Have mercy on us, O God. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of 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

Behold the Love, the Grace of God

T. Fettke & T. Grassi

Incorporating WAYFARING STRANGER

Featuring Mary Ann Ratcliff, soprano

Prayer for Illumination

John 12:3

Holy God, break open the Scripture through the power of your Holy Spirit. Let your Word pour out until its fragrance fills this, your house, and our lives. Then, anointed with your word, send us out to share the good news we have received. We pray this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading: *John 12:1-8*

Sermon

Poured Out

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. 213

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

†The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to God's Table

Isa. 55:1; Ps. 63:4-5

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; let those who have no money come and eat.

God will satisfy our souls with a rich feast, and we will bless the Lord as long as we live.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God our creator and redeemer. In your wisdom you made all things and sustain them by your power. You formed us in your image to love and serve you. When we were slaves in Egypt you freed us and led us through the waters of the sea. You fed us with heavenly food in the wilderness and satisfied our thirst from desert springs. On a holy mountain you gave us your law to guide us in your way. Through the waters of Jordan, you led us into the land of your promise and you sustained us in times of trial. You spoke through prophets calling us to turn from our willful ways to new obedience and righteousness. You sent your only Son to be the way to eternal life. Therefore, we join our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way, and though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, you delivered us from sin and death

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our offering of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Christ has died. Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be Christ's body in the world. Help us, O God, to be obedient to your call to love all your children, to do justice and show mercy, and to live in peace with your whole creation. Guide us through the desert of life, quench our thirst with the living waters, satisfy our hunger with the bread of heaven. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages, we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

As our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes again in glory.

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Communion of God's People

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, as you fed your people in the wilderness, so you feed us at this table with a simple loaf and cup. Here you transform us, by the working of your wondrous love. Now send us out to be Christ's body in your broken and beautiful world to bear your good news of hope and joy for all. **Amen.**

The Invitation to the Offering

As it is written in Deuteronomy, "Since there will never cease to be some in need on earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor...'" Through our tithes and offerings, we can give generously, as Mary did, and remember the poor. As we open wide our hands, we attend to Christ himself, who is present especially among those considered the least and the lost. Let us offer to God these gifts and our very lives.

Offertory *The Water Is Wide* (O WALY WALY) arr. Brandt Adams

***Hymn No. 809** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
Doxology

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, your generosity astounds and humbles us. We bow before you in gratitude and awe, asking you to receive what we have brought in response. May these gifts be a pleasing and fragrant offering, for the sake of the world you came to save. We ask this in your holy name. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Sending

***Hymn No. 212** *What Wondrous Love Is This* WONDROUS LOVE

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* EBENEZER

****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 musician, Matthew Warren!

Although an attorney by training, Matthew Warren has almost 25 years of experience playing the cello. He has played with a number of orchestras over the years, from professional groups such as the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Meridian Symphony Orchestra, to college ensembles at Duke University, Belhaven University, and Jackson State University, as well as community groups such as the Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra, Vicksburg Orchestral Society, and the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra. In addition to providing cello lessons through First Baptist Jackson's Academy of Arts program, he also plays in a wide variety of smaller trios and quartets, performing at weddings, church programs, musicals, receptions, and various other gatherings. He is currently a member of Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, where he plays on most Sundays.

Holy Week Services

Sunday, 4/13	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday Service (Palm Processional) Anthem: <i>The Holy City</i> (Jeremy Threlfall, tenor; Ben Bullock, trumpet)
Thursday, 4/17	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service (Communion)
Friday, 4/18	6:00 PM	Good Friday Service
Sunday, 4/20	10:30 AM	Easter Sunday Service: Resurrection of the Lord! Anthem: <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)

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.

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

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 58

Offering: \$7,211.00

Upcoming Events

Today, 4/6	4:00 PM	Prayer Group (1503 Vermont Ave.)
Tuesday, 4/8	11:30 AM	PW Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, 4/9	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
	5:15 PM	Dinner and Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, 4/10	9:00 AM	Prayer Group (919 N. James St.)
	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
	5:00 PM	Knotty Knitters (Ewell Martin Room)
Sunday, 4/13	9:00 AM	Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room)
	9:15 AM	Youth Sunday School (Youth Room)
	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship: Palm Sunday (Palm Processional)
	11:45 AM	Session Meeting (Ewell Martin Room)

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:

John 12:1-8 presents a powerful scene in which Mary anoints Jesus' feet with expensive perfume, a gesture of profound love and sacrifice, which is met with criticism from Judas. How do you respond to acts of devotion or generosity that seem extravagant or

unnecessary? In what ways might you be called to “pour out” your resources, time, or energy in a way that honors Jesus, even if others might not understand or approve?

Household Prayer: Morning

Merciful God, as I begin this day, place in me a spirit of generosity so that I may freely share love, joy, and encouragement with those I encounter. Keep me from quick judgments so that I leave room for your grace in my life and in the lives of others. Make me your faithful disciple in my words and in my actions, as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

All through this day, Lord, you have been present. Help me to put aside the cares of the day and the worries of tomorrow in order to fully enjoy the peace of your presence now. I pray that your peace will also be with those who have special need of your care tonight, and I pray for those who lie down this night without the safety of home or bed, without enough food or resources. Bring your light into the surrounding darkness so that all of us may sleep in the security of your love. Amen.

Worship Greeters

Thank you to today’s worship greeters Lee and Stephen Williams family.

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Sundays

Breakfast: 9:00 AM

Sunday School: 9:30 AM

Worship: 10:30 AM

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