

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

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

arr. Brandt Adams

Welcome

Luke 24:1; John 20:1

Early in the morning, on the first day of the week, the disciples of Jesus went to the tomb where he had been buried only to find that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Friends, we gather here as Christ's disciples, on the first day of the week, to celebrate the good news of the gospel: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!

***Call to Worship**

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

***Hymn No. 234**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

EASTERHYMN

***Prayer of Adoration**

Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

Litany for Easter

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried, and rose again on the third day.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

He appeared to Mary, and to the twelve, and to many faithful witnesses.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

At last he came to us, that we might come to believe and proclaim the good news to the world.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Confession

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

By the grace of God, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation. You shall not die but live. The rejected cornerstone has become your strength and your song. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

Word

Anthem

Crown Him Lord of All

arr. Marty Parks

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Luke 24:1-12*

Sermon

He Is Risen!

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

Song *Lamb of God* arr. Lloyd Larson
featuring Jeremy Threlfall, tenor

The Invitation to the Offering *1 Cor. 15:23, 25*

We belong to Jesus Christ; all things are his, for he is Lord of all. Let us bring to God our tithes and offerings.

Offertory *Worthy Is the Lamb* Darlene Zschech
featuring Dierdre Reynolds, alto

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

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We praise you, O God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy, such grace, and such hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let our lives be proof of that good news. Let all our words and actions, our love and service bear witness to your resurrection power; for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Announcements and Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer Albert Hay Malotte

Sending

***Hymn No. 238** *Because He Lives* RESURRECTION

***Charge and Benediction**

Go from here renewed and strong, knowing that the Lord is alive, almighty, and present. Look for the blessings that await you this week. Weep with those who weep. Rejoice with those who celebrate. Tell the story of God's love. Now, may the truth of the empty tomb – the astonishing reality of Jesus' resurrection – keep you fearless and sure and wondering in joy at the goodness of God. May

the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you, this day and always. And all God's people give glory to God, saying:
Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude *Resurrection Joy* HYMN OF JOY

All depart in silence.

****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 hand of fellowship and invite you to join us again soon. Please fill out the blue card in your pew and place in the offering plate when passed.

Welcome to our guest musicians!

Dr. LaTannia Ellerbe, a native of the Southeastern United States, endeavors to share the love of Christ through music. She has performed in the United States, Singapore, Bermuda, and Cuba. Dr. Ellerbe is currently on faculty at Jackson State University, where she serves as Assistant Professor of Strings and conducts the String Ensemble. Dr. Ellerbe earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Minnesota under the guidance of Sally O'Reilly. She received her Master of Music from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and her Bachelor of Music from Vanderbilt University as a Chancellor's Scholar.

Jeremy Threlfall resides in McComb with his wife Cleia. His love for singing started at the early age of 5 and has developed into a life of performing, composing, recording, filming, and even arranging – with a variety of audiences ranging from country to Broadway, opera to children, and inspirational.

Celebration on Sunday, May 4: Confirmation of Burke Williams and Recognition of Graduates

You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, May 4, for a joyful celebration in the life of our congregation! May 4 will be **Confirmation Sunday**, when confirmand Burke Williams will publicly affirm his faith and commitment to Christ. Burke will personally reaffirm the promises made at his baptism and become an active member of the church. May 4 will also be **Senior**

Sunday, when we will honor and celebrate our 2025 graduates: Wyatt Dyess, Natalie Simo, Lydia Williams, and Lily Warshauer (from Mississippi State). Please come to celebrate and support these young people as they grow in faith, love, and the grace of God!

Welcome the Rev. Chris Richardson next Sunday!

Next Sunday, April 27, we will welcome the Rev. Chris Richardson to lead worship and Nancy Ables to play the piano. Rev. Alston will be on vacation April 21-27. She will return to the office Monday, April 28.

Record from last Sunday *Attendance: 66* *Offering: \$11,115.00*

Upcoming Events at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Wednesday, 4/23	7:15 AM	Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
	4:00 PM	Prayer Group (1503 Vermont Ave.)
Thursday, 4/24	9:00 AM	Prayer Group (919 N. James)
Sunday, 4/27	9:00 AM	Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room)
	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Second Sunday of Easter: Rev. Chris Richardson; Nancy Ables
Sunday, 5/4	9:00 AM	Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room)
	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:00 AM	Called Session Meeting
	10:30 AM	Third Sunday of Easter: Confirmation Sunday, Senior Sunday, Communion, MICA

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:

What difference does it make to believe that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead? How does your faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ change the way you think about sin and death? How does it change the way you live?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of endless life, in the light of this new day we see the dawning of your new creation. Give us wonder and delight to enjoy this day that you have made; through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Stay with us Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Help us to know that you are with us – through the promise of your Word, in the sharing of a meal, and by the power of your Spirit that burns within our hearts. Bless and keep us, this night and always. Amen.

Worship Greeters

Thank you to today’s worship greeters, Joanna and Nicky Barr, Greta and Ridge.

Sanctuary Flowers

The Easter lilies are given in honor, memory, and celebration of family members and friends. Please see the insert for names. Thanks be to God for bonds of Christian love and eternal life in our risen Lord.

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Sundays *Breakfast:* 9:00 AM

Sunday School: 9:30 AM

Worship: 10:30 AM

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