

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

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025 • 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude

He Touched Me

Bill Gaither

Welcome and Announcements

Lee Williams

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!

Introit

There's Something About That Name

Bill and Gloria Gaither

***Call to Worship**

Rev. 1:8

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega,
the Lord who was and is and is to come.

***Hymn No. 262**

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

DARWALL

***Opening Prayer**

God of the Resurrection, you open the tomb and invite us to sing and dance in the new life you give us. In Jesus Christ, whose wounds are not erased but glorified in resurrection, touch our wounds that they may be transformed into channels of healing for others. Holy Spirit, breathe into us the power to forgive so that all may have new life. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

John 20:19, 26

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

Prayer of Confession

John 20:19-27

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong. When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

John 20:20-21, 30

Christ comes with healing light into our locked places and shadowy hurts, breathing into us new life. 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

Hymn No. 519 (vv. 1-2)

It Is Well with My Soul
led by Sarah Ross, clarinet

VILLE DU HAVRE

Please join by singing the refrain:

...

**It is well / with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.**

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, as the risen Christ came into the locked room of the first disciples, may your Word enter into us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we who have not seen may yet believe. **Amen.**

Scripture: *John 20:19-31*

Sermon

Troubling Nicknames

Rev. Chris Richardson

*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. 295

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

The Invitation to the Offering

Ps. 150:1; Rev. 1:5

God gives new life to all that is, including ourselves and all that sustains us. So let our tithes and offerings be our songs of praise and thanksgiving in response to God who loves us and frees us!

Offertory

How Great Thou Art

O STORE GUD

*Hymn No. 809

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered. In the name of Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, the first resurrected and ruler of all. **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. 77

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

The Family of God

Bill and Gloria Gaither

**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 the Reverend Chris Richardson!

Rev. Richardson works part-time as a chaplain for Arden Ministries and is an elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. Rev. Richardson is a graduate of Duke

Divinity School. She is married to her husband, Dr. Kevin Richardson. They have three children: Colin, Brooke, and Emma.

Next Sunday: Confirmation of Burke Williams and Senior Sunday

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!

Communion and MICA Collection Sunday

Next Sunday, May 4, 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!

Record from last Sunday

Attendance: 118

Offering: \$11,576.00

Upcoming Events at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| Wednesday, 4/30 | 7:15 AM | Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 4:00 PM | Prayer Group (1503 Vermont Ave.) |
| Thursday, 5/1 | 9:00 AM | Prayer Group (919 N. James) |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 5:00 PM | Knotty Knitters (Ewell Martin Room) |
| Sunday, 5/4 | 9:00 AM | Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room) |
| | 9:30 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship: Confirmation of Burke Williams, Senior Sunday, Communion, and MICA |

The Session

Rev. Cassie Alston, moderator

| 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:

Thomas doubted the resurrection until he saw the nail holes and put his finger in the wound of the risen Christ's hands and side. We, too, have been wounded in this life, and our society often teaches us to hide our wounds and vulnerabilities. What might happen if, like Christ, we invited those shut down by life to notice our wounds?

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God, you are the God who is and was and is to be. Thank you that Christ has freed us to be a kingdom of priests serving you and your world. Give me a deeper sense, as I move through this day, of what it means to say that you are my "Alpha and Omega," my A to Z. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Jesus, tonight I remember that your gospel gives me the power to forgive any and all, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, and that it includes forgiving myself. Breathe your peace into me so that even if I pierced you today, I can still see you coming to embrace me with your freedom and love this night. Amen.

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's sanctuary flowers are provided by Clem and Debbie Stovall in loving memory of Dottie Heiss.

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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