



J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 2, 2024 * 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude	<i>The Light of the World Is Jesus</i>	arr. Mark Hayes
Welcome and Announcements		Rev. Cassie Alston
Introit	<i>Here I Am, Lord</i>	arr. Benjamin Harlan

Call to Worship

Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Six days we labor and do all our work –

But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord our God.

Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt,
but God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

We rest; giving thanks and praise to God, who has set us free.

*Hymn No. 557	<i>Open My Eyes, That I May See</i>	SCOTT
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Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for giving the gift of Sabbath in the midst of a busy and weary world. Help us to practice the Sabbath rhythm of life...work and rest, work and rest, work and rest. We rest because you rested. We rest because you command it. We rest in order to remember that the world and our worth do not depend on our efforts and accomplishments. We rest in such a way that others may also rest. You made the Sabbath for us because you know all things that are good and necessary for us. We thank you; we praise you; we rest in you. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

The hardness of our hearts grieves God. We prefer to follow our own counsel rather than to seek and submit to the counsel of God. Confessing our sin, may God soften our hearts and guide our feet to walk in the ways of faithfulness.

Prayer of Confession

God of the outstretched arm, though you lead us into freedom, we choose again and again the chains of sin. Forgive us, we pray, for bowing to the false Gods of our time. We believe we have made ourselves rather than being made in your image – the work of your hands. We practice legalism against others yet expect exceptions for ourselves. We rest in ease while others bear heavy burdens on our behalf. Heal us where we are withered in hand or heart or faith. Empower us to live as you intend and command. In the name of Jesus, who came to set us free. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Beloved people of God, believe the good news: through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Word

Anthem	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	arr. Richard Shephard
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Prayer for Illumination

Shine in the darkness, O God, and shine in our hearts, so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may grow in the knowledge of your glory, proclaiming Jesus Christ and not ourselves until his life is made visible in us, even in us. **Amen.**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Mark 2:23-3:6

Sermon	<i>The Gift of Sabbath</i>	Rev. Cassie Alston
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*Affirmation of Faith	<i>The Apostles' Creed</i>	Hymnal, p. 14
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*Hymn No. 805 (Gloria Patri)	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	GREATOREX
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*Hymn No. 651	<i>O, Master Let Me Walk with Thee</i>	MARYTON
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+The Sacrament of Holy Communion		Communion Insert
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The Invitation to the Offering

God lifts the burdens from our shoulders and frees our hands from work, giving the gift of regular rest. What, then, shall we lift up to God in thanksgiving?

In freedom and joy, we give back to God a portion of all we have received, that others may rest in fullness of life.

Offertory	<i>Here I Am, Lord</i>	arr. Mark Hayes
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*Hymn No. 809 (Doxology)	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	OLD HUNDREDTH
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***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

For Sabbath rest, and finest wheat, and all the gifts that sustain us in life, we thank you, O God. Accept, we pray, the gifts we offer in return; our hands reaching toward your mighty hand in gratitude and simple trust. In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Sending

***Hymn No. 534**

Draw Me Nearer

I AM THINE

***Charge and Benediction**

Go now in gratitude, to keep the Sabbath holy and enjoy Sabbath rest, that all creation may be healed and restored in the abundant life of God. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever. Amen.

Postlude

This Little Light of Mine

African-American Spiritual

***Please stand as you are able.**

+ Gluten-free bread is available.

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.

Today is Communion Sunday and MICA Sunday!

Today, the first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Lord’s Supper (Communion) and collect non-perishable donations for the food pantry at McComb Interdenominational Care Association (MICA). From the Lord’s table we are sent to feed others as we are fed. Please give generously to MICA on the first Sunday of each month!

Vacation Bible School: July 17-19, 2024 (5:00-7:30 PM)

Come to Camp Firelight July 17, 18, and 19 for a summer camp adventure with God! Children will enjoy summer camp fun as they explore Bible stories that demonstrate how people trusted God and did great things in God’s name. We can do the same! Please contact Melisa DeCoux if you would like to volunteer, and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join in the fun!

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 44

Offering: 1,130.00

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Wednesday, 6/6	7:15 AM	Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
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Upcoming Events

Sunday, 6/9	10:30 AM	Worship: Rev. Chris Richardson
Sunday, 6/16	10:30 AM	Worship: Rev. Philip Williams

Questions for Reflection:

In our 24/7 world where time is accounted for in mobile multifunctional devices, Sabbath rest is a countercultural concept and practice. What does Sabbath mean to you, and how do you practice it? What can you do to help make Sabbath rest possible for other people or for creation itself?

Household Prayer: Morning

The day, O God, began when I awakened to receive it as a gift from you. Help me this day to measure time well, to see each moment within the larger sweep of time. Whether I have time on my hands or time slips through my fingers, I have been given this very day to live faithfully and well. Help me, then, to touch the beauty of creation somewhere today. Help me to notice the face of Christ in some person today. Help me to hear your glory proclaimed in song or instrument today. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Your promised gift of rest comes to me now, dear God; help me to receive it. Give rest to all who wait this night in illness or anxiety or sadness. Let your rest come to all creatures and give rest and renewal to all the earth. To those who wander and work this night, grant rest when the morning comes. In Christ I pray. Amen.

(Long, Kimberly Bracken, ed. *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year B, vol. 1.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014, p. 120-121.)

Sanctuary Flowers: The sanctuary flowers are given by Rusty Whittington in memory of her sisters Karen Ginn and Bobbie Nanny.

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