



J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ascension of the Lord
May 12, 2024 * 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cassie Alston

Prelude

Glorify Thy Name

arr. Mark Hayes

Introit

Lord, Be Glorified

GLORIFIED

Call to Worship

Ephesians 1:15-20

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward one another. So I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him.

With the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we see the greatness of Christ's power at work in us who believe. God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead – and seated him at God's right hand in the glory of the heavenly places!

*Hymn No. 745

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET

Gathering Prayer

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Litany for the Ascension of the Lord

...Lift up your hearts...**We lift them to the Lord.**

Call to Confession

Let us humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, casting all our anxiety on the Lord, who cares for us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

The God of all grace, who calls us to eternal glory in Jesus Christ, will restore, support, and strengthen us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

Word

Special Music

Consider the Lilies

Roger Hoffman
Jeremy Threlfall, tenor

Prayer for Illumination

God most High, reigning in glory, send down your Spirit of wisdom to shine in your heavenly Word, so that we may worship you with joy, continually blessing your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53

Sermon

Already and Not Yet

Rev. Cassie Alston

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

*Hymn No. 805 (Gloria Patri)

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

*Hymn No. 353

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

The Invitation to the Offering

Christ has called us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. Let us give generously to fulfill that call.

Offertory

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Sally DeFord
Jeremy, Threlfall, tenor

*Hymn No. 809 (Doxology) *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDT

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, we clap our hands and shout for joy! We give you praise and these offerings, for, with Christ ascended by your side, you are God, awesome and Most High! **Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Sending

He Lives

ACKLEY

*Hymn No. 248

*Charge and Benediction

Go now, clothed with power from on high, to be witnesses to the love and power of Jesus Christ, our risen and reigning Lord. The blessing of the one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Postlude

*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!

Jeremy Threlfall resides in McComb with his wife Cleia. His love for singing started at the early age of five 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.

Happy Mother's Day!

Today we honor and give thanks for mothers! We offer a prayer of gratitude: Holy God, we thank you for the gift of mothers. We celebrate the love of mothers, both biological and spiritual, who nurture and guide us in your ways. Bless them with joy, strength, and love. May they feel deeply honored and appreciated not just today, but every day. Thank you for mothers who are no longer with us in this life, for their love and care, and for cherished memories. We give you thanks and praise that they and we will live together with you in eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 51

Offering: \$7,652.50

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Tuesday, 5/14	11:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (Lesson 9) (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, 5/15	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 5/19	10:30 AM	Worship: Pentecost Sunday You are invited to wear red!
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Questions for Reflection: The Ascension of Christ to be seated at the right hand of God is a grand liturgical celebration in the life of the church. It marks forty days of celebrating Easter and God's triumph over the powers of oppression, depression, and our fear of death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is one of many images we have for Christ: good shepherd, suffering servant, great physician. How does the image of the ascended Christ affect your understanding of who he is? What are the strengths and weaknesses in this image of Christ for you?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy One, come into my heart this morning and give me eyes to see throughout this day all the ways that you rule. Put your resurrecting power to work in my life and empower me to be a witness to Christ, that my life may be a song of thanksgiving to you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, embrace me now at the end of this day. As in every day, there have been ups and downs, joys and disappointments. I thank you for my faith that, above it all, you rule. I put my trust in you as I give this day, now spent, to you. Do with it what you will and send your Holy Spirit to pull forward threads from today that you will spin into good things tomorrow. I pray through Jesus Christ, who reigns with you, now and forever. 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 Karen and Keith Sanders in loving memory of Leslie Sanders Pigott.

J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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Church office open **Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**