

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)



Rev. Cassie Alston, Pastor

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J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2026 10:30 AM

Gathering

Prelude *Glorify Thy Name* arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Just As I Am (I Come Broken)* Travis Cottrell

***Call to Worship** *John 3:3, 17; 1 Peter 2:9*
As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born again, Christ invites us to become a new creation.
Christ calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light, and we are saved through him.

***Hymn No. 72** *To God Be the Glory* TO GOD BE THE GLORY

***Opening Prayer**
Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: Give us faith to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to bear our cross and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 *Col. 2:1*
We have been buried with Christ in baptism, in order that we might be raised to new life with him through faith in the power of God. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

Summary of the Law

Mat. 22:37-40

Our Lord Jesus said:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Word

Anthem

Psalm 121

Timothy Shaw

Prayer for Illumination

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: *Psalm 121*

Gospel Reading: *John 3:1-17*

Sermon: *A Nighttime Conversation* 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**
(Gloria Patri)

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX

Hymn No. 212

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to God's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift the up to the Lord.

It is truly right and our greatest joy...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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you, O God, for sending us your Son...You are holy, O God of majesty. Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...Now 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

Communion of God's People

Prayer After Communion

The Invitation to the Offering

Rom. 4:4

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, let us return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

Offertory

I'd Rather Have Jesus

arr. Mark Hayes

***Hymn No. 809** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDRETH
DOXOLOGY

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves – in deep gratitude for your call on our lives and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purpose, we pray. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Sending

***Hymn No. 229**

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

arr. Lloyd Larson

***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.

Thank you -- Meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi

A tremendous thank you to everyone who helped prepare for and host the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi on Tuesday! J.J. White welcomed ministers, commissioners, and guests from around the presbytery for this special event. The building was in great shape and beautifully decorated, the welcome was warm, worship and music were inspiring, and the food was delicious! The dedication, grace, and hospitality of J.J. White were evident, and our guests were deeply honored. Thank you!



Seeing Jesus: Conversations that Reveal

Join us on Sundays during Lent for the sermon series *Seeing Jesus: Conversations that Reveal*. In this series, we will follow Jesus through wilderness testing and intimate conversations where sight is restored, faith is awakened, and life is made new. Please join us on this Lenten journey, as Jesus' identity is revealed, and we — God's people — learn to see.

- 2.22.26 *Seeing Jesus: Words in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-12)*
- 3.1.26 *Seeing Jesus: A Nighttime Conversation (John 3:1-17)*
- 3.8.26 *Seeing Jesus: At the Well (John 4:5-42)*
- 3.15.26 *Seeing Jesus: Talking Back to Blindness (John 9:1-41)*
- 3.22.26 *Seeing Jesus: Speaking Life (John 11:1-45)*

Wednesdays in March: Light Meal and Bible Study

During March, the Fellowship Committee will host Wednesday night meals, and Rev. Alston will lead the Lenten Bible study *Meeting Jesus on the Road*. Please join us 5:15-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

- 3.4.26 *On the Road to Ministry (Matthew 4:12-17, 23)*
- 3.11.26 *Traveling Light (Luke 9:1-6; Mark 8:31-37)*
- 3.18.26 *On the Way to the Cross (Mark 11:1-16:8)*
- 3.25.26 *Easter: Back to the Beginning (Matthew 28:1-10)*

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 54

Offering: \$5682.00

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 3/3	10:45 AM	Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, 3/4	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
	5:15 PM	Dinner and Lenten Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, 3/5	5:00 PM	Knutty Knitters (Knutty Knitters Room)
Sunday, 3/8	9:00 AM	Breakfast (Ewell Martin Room)
	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship: Third Sunday in Lent

Reflection and Prayers

Questions for Reflection:

Consider a time when you felt uncertain. Can you see how God was at work in your life at that time? What from Nicodemus's story is a help to you as you look for evidence of God's presence in your own life?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, you have given me the gift of this new day, and you send me out to live it fully and well. Help me to be attentive to your direction and leading. Whatever this day may hold, I trust that you will keep me in all my comings and goings. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious God, as the evening comes and the light fades, I look for you even in the shadows. Your love and protection stay with me through the night hours, and I rest in your promises. For the day as it has been, I give you thanks. For the gift of rest, I offer praise. You love me and the whole world so greatly that you offer us salvation. After a night of rest, bring me into the light of a new day. In gratitude, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.