



# J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 1, 2023 • 10:30 AM

### *Gathering*

**Welcome and announcements**

*Tommy Brock*

**Prelude**

*His Name is Wonderful*

*Mieir*

**\*Call to worship**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**The brightness of God's light shines upon all the nations. All are welcomed to the brightness of God's dawn.**

God gathers us from far away and carries us. With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

**We respond in praise. With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.**

**\*Hymn 115**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

*Munster; verses 1,4*

**Call to confession**

The Gospel of John tells us that the basis for our judgment is this: "The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil." We confess our sins to God, to whom we have access through faith in Christ. We come in boldness and confidence, not according to our merit, but according to God's grace.

**Prayer of confession**

**God of justice, we confess that our actions are evil whenever we remain passive while others are oppressed; whenever we guard our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor; or when we ignore the cries of those in need of help. Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in Jesus Christ. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who are precious in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Amen.**

**Declaration of forgiveness**

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world – not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. We declare the good news of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in him.**

### *The Word*

**Anthem**

*What Child is This?*

*Traditional*

**Prayer for illumination**

O God of wonder, as that ancient star rose and guided the magi, illuminating the place where Jesus was, so now may the light of your Holy Spirit shine in our hearts and minds as the Word is read and proclaimed. Guide us again to Christ, and direct us in new paths of faithfulness. In Christ we pray: Amen.

**Scripture:** *Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12*

**Sermon**

*Attentive to the Light*

*the Reverend Chris Richardson*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

*Hymnal, p. 15*

**\*Gloria Patri**

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Hymn 805*

**\*Hymn 126**

*O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

*Wade*

**Invitation to the offering**

As the magi entered the house, they knelt in joy and paid homage to Jesus. Opening their treasure chests, they gave gifts to him. So we come into God's house today, offering from our own treasure chests gift to Christ, the light of the world.

**Offertory**

*It is Well With My Soul*

*Spafford*

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Hymn 809*

**\*Prayer of thanksgiving**

Though we are least among the saints, o God, still you have given us the gift of your grace that we might share with others the boundless riches of Christ, and also the resources we hold in trust. Receive now, as ask, what we have given today. Use these offerings and use us for your plans and purposes. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

**Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

## Sending

\*Hymn 185

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

*Hopkins; verses 1,5*

### Charge and blessing

Arise, shine; for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Get up: Shake off apathy, despair, and anything else that has brought you low.

Glow: Reflect God's glory, the light of Christ, so that others may see in you the glory of God.

### Postlude

*Whispering Hope*

*Hawthorne*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

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## Announcements

**Record from 12/24-25/22**

*Attendance 113*

*Offering \$5,368*

### This Week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Wednesday 7:15 AM

Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

NOTE: No choir practice this week. Practice will resume on Tuesday, January 17, at 5:00 PM.

### Welcome to worship!

All who worship here are joyfully welcomed into our midst! To visitors, we offer a special hand of fellowship and invite you to join us again soon.

### Welcome to the Reverend Chris Richardson

Rev. Chris Richardson works part-time as a chaplain for Hospice Ministries and is an elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. She is a graduate of Duke Divinity School. Chris has lived in Pike County since marrying husband Kevin in 2004. They have three children: Colin, Brooke, and Emma.

### Vision 2023 (adopted by Session on December 11, 2022)

***Believe in Me and grow our church together in 2023.*** In 2023, we shall regularly reach out to inactive members, encouraging them to renew participation in the life of JJWMPC. We shall also increase visibility through social media and community involvement that encourages others to join our membership. This will include promotion of church facilities as a destination for appropriate community events, with special emphasis on attracting young adults and youth. In doing so, we shall be widely recognized as a vibrant, welcoming church family that loves the Lord and one another. These initiatives will serve to grow membership and double attendance by year end, 2023.

### Reminder of God's call to stewardship

***Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine (Proverbs 3:9-10).*** Please submit your 2023 stewardship pledge card to the church office. Thank you to everyone who has already done so, as it greatly helps the church in planning the year's budget. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman.

### Meals for the hungry

J.J. White coordinates a program to provide meals to the hungry in our community. The participating churches are J.J. White Memorial, Centenary, and the Church of the Mediator. Please contact Melisa DeCoux, program director, if you can help.

### Session

Next Sunday, the Session's class of 2023-25 will be installed: Tommy Brock, Linda Miller, and Watkins "Noggin" Wild. Noggin has served on the Session before, and new Session members Tommy Brock and Linda Miller will be ordained. Thank you, all Session members, for your faithful leadership of J.J. White.

### Sanctuary flowers

Today's flowers are provided by Sharon White to the glory of God, with prayers for peace in the new year. The sign-up sheet for providing flowers in our sanctuary during 2023 is available on the front pew. If you have questions, please see Carol Rawlings.

### Presbyterian Women

All women are cordially invited to celebrate the January lesson from the PW's current Bible study about Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath, at 11:30 on next Tuesday (January 10). Come join the food, fun, fellowship, and faith. Please see Sarah Ross if you have any questions.

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## *J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church*

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