

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
The Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, December 11, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

"Carol of the Bells"

Kadlec

Oscar Leal, cellist; Jennifer Sanders, pianist

Introit

"Come, Oh Redeemer, Come"

***Call to Worship**

Isa. 35:10

The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing.

Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Let us worship our God with joy!

***Prayer of the Day**

**Holy God, your prophets have long spoken
of the one who would come to save us.**

Matt. 11:2-11

Now the promise is fulfilled;

now your kingdom has come near.

Send us as messengers of your way,

to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen

and the good news we have heard;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 173**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

verses 1, 3, 4

Lighting the Advent Candle: The Candle of Joy

India Warshauer and Brad Woods

Rejoice in the Lord always;

Again we will say, "Rejoice!"

The world says, "Worry!"

And we say, "Rejoice!"

The world says, "Be afraid; be very afraid!"

And we say, "Rejoice!"

The world says, "Be happy, whatever it takes!"

And we say, "We will be faithful, and find our happiness there!"

As we light the third candle of Advent,

We pray for hope, peace, and joy.

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and the joy it calls us to know.

Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and to receive the

Word you speak to us today. Amen.

Call to Confession

As we continue to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ, let us confess the sins that keep us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our doubt and despair lead us to low and long-suffering places. Our eyes downcast, we find nothing for which to give thanks, we find no reason to rejoice. Yet, you call us to resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. You call us to rejoice in a babe about to be born. You call us to lift our eyes in hopeful anticipation of your kingdom to come. Forgive us. Help us. Save us. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, *Lam. 3:22-23*
his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning".

Know that you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Now may the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

Amen

We Hear God's Word

Special Music "The Wexford Carol"

Claire Lowe, vocalist; Oscar Leal, cellist; Jennifer Sanders, pianist

Good people all this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.

With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day; in Bethlehem upon that morn', there was a blest Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; to whom God's angels did appear, which put the Shepherds in great fear.

"Prepare and go," the angel said, "to Bethlehem; be not afraid, for there you'll find this happy morn' a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind the shepherds went, this babe to find. And as God's angel had foretold, they did a Savior Christ behold.

Within a manger He was laid, and by His side, the Virgin maid attending on the Lord of life, who came on Earth to end all strife.

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"Come, Oh Redeemer, Come"

Jeremy Threlfall, vocalist; Oscar Leal, cellist; Jennifer Sanders, pianist

Father enthroned on high - Holy, holy! Ancient eternal Light - Hear our prayer.

Lord, save us from the dark of our striving; faithless, troubled hearts weighed down.

Come, Oh Redeemer, come. Grant us mercy. Come, Oh Redeemer, come. Grant us peace.

Look now upon our need; Lord, be with us. Heal us and make us free from our sin.

Come, Oh Redeemer, come. Grant us mercy. Come, Oh Redeemer, come. Grant us peace.

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

Readings from God's Word

Prophets

Isaiah 35:1-10

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

"Glimpses of Joy"

the Reverend Chris Richardson

***An Affirmation of Faith**

**Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God,
the Lord alone.**

Deut. 6:4-5

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

***The Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!
Amen!

Invitation to the Offering

With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our tithes and gifts to God.

Offertory

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Nelson

Oscar Leal, cellist; Jennifer Sanders, pianist

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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 and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

We Go in God’s Name

***Hymn 152**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

verses 1,4

Charge and benediction

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

Philippians 4:4

May God’s joy carry you from this place and inspire you throughout this week, until we meet again.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

Postlude

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Lanier

Oscar Leal, cellist; Jennifer Sanders, pianist

Portions of the Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott Presbyterian Outlook, 2022

This Week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

Sunday	9:00 am	Breakfast in the Ewell Martin Room
	9:30 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship
Tuesday	5:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	7:15 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast

Last Week's Record

12/4/22 Attendance - 53

12/4/22 Offering - \$8073

Welcome to Worship!

We are happy to welcome all who worship with us today. We are especially glad to welcome visitors. Please 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 UMC. She is a graduate of Duke Divinity School. Chris has lived in Pike County since getting married to her husband Kevin in 2004. They have three children: Colin, Brooke and Emma.



Welcome to Our Guest Musicians

🎵 **Oscar Leal** was born in Mexico City and started his music career at the Conservatory of Music in Puebla, Mexico. In 2001, Mr Leal was offered a scholarship to study music performance and join the The University of Southern Mississippi's Symphony Orchestra where he joined the stage with Placido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman, Sir Charles Galway among other world class musicians. Mr. Leal graduated with a degree in music performance from The University of Southern Mississippi in 2005.

🎵 **Claire Lowe** resides in Summit, MS. She is a sophomore at Southwest Mississippi Community College where she majors in music. Claire enjoys singing in the SMCC Choir. She also studies voice privately with Christopher Hart.

🎵 **Jeremy Threlfall** resides in McComb, MS, with his wife Cleia. His love for singing started at an early age of 5 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.

🎵 **Jennifer Sanders** lives in Summit, MS, and is married to Glenn. Jennifer began her piano studies at the age of five. In high school, she studied under Mrs. Lorraine Pigott who instilled in her a love for church music. Jennifer graduated with a degree in music performance from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1995.



The Session Meets Today

The Session of J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church will meet today at 2:00 p.m. in the Ewell Martin Room.

Providing Meals for the Hungry

J.J. White is coordinating 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. Melisa DeCoux is the director of this program. Please let her know if you can help.

Presbyterian Women December Meeting and Potluck Luncheon

Ladies, you're invited to celebrate the "reason for the season" at PW's Christmas potluck luncheon. Join the food, fun, fellowship, and faith on Tuesday, December 13, at 11:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Sarah Ross at (601) 395-5721 with any questions.

Sign-up Sheet for Sanctuary Flowers

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.