



J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church
McComb, Mississippi
Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

“O Holy Night”

Hayes

***Call to Worship**

Do not be afraid; for see –

Luke 2:10-15

I am bringing you good news of great joy.

**To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah,
the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying
in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

***Prayer of the Day**

Living God, on this holy night we gather –

Luke 2:1-20

to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;

to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;

to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;

to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us

**to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord.**

Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Chris, Kevin, Emma, Brooke,
and Colin Richardson

The angel said, “I bring good news of great joy!”

For to you is born a Savior!

The choir sang, “Peace on earth!”

For God reigns in heaven and on earth!

The star beckoned to all who saw it: Follow me!

For Hope is born in Bethlehem this night!

As we light the Christ candle tonight,

We watch for Christmas to come around and among us.

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, has come and is coming.

All the faithful gather this night to worship God!

Almighty God, Jesus Christ, your Word, became flesh and lived among us. Help us to walk in this Light you have sent into the world to guide us. Amen.

Call to Confession

In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Great and glorious God,

through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us

that the blessed age of grace has appeared

and the hoped-for time of salvation has come.

Yet we cling to the glories of the present age – worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, and ungodly ways.

Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin,

through Christ, who gave himself for us,

so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

We Hear God's Word

Anthem

"One Silent Night"

One night, one silent night, one night, one holy night, God will bring us a gift, the saving Son of Man.

One night, when all is calm, one night, when all is bright the heavens will shine a light as God reveals His plan.

One child, one holy child, one child, one precious child; God will become the child who lives with us tonight.

One night in Bethlehem, one night from Jesse's stem will come a wondrous King, a royal diadem.

One child, one holy child, one child, one precious child; God will become the child who lives with us tonight.

One child, one holy child; God will be with us tonight.

A Prayer for Guidance as We Hear God's Word

Readings from God's Word

the Prophets Isaiah 9:2-7

the Gospels Luke 2:1-14

Sermon

"Hold, Love, Pray"

the Reverend Chris Richardson

***An Affirmation of Faith**

From the Book of Common Worship

Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus;

for we know that all things work together for good

for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 147

"Away in a Manger"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to God's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

It is always right and our greatest joy to give God thanks and praise....

....Therefore, we join our voices with all those who sing your praise
Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest....

....for great is the mystery of our faith:

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

...as our Savior, Jesus, taught us to pray when he said:

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of God's People

A Prayer After Communion

God of grace, you renew us at your Table with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Grant that this food may strengthen us in love and help us to serve you as we serve one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. 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

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hayes

*** 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

We Go in God’s Name

A Litany for Christmas Eve (Responsive Reading)

In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

Let there be light.

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us. And the Word was the light of all peoples.

Let there be light.

We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

Let there be light.

(Reverend Richardson will pass the light from the Christ Candle to the ushers who will continue passing it to the pews. Please pass your light to the person beside you.

The sanctuary will be darkened as we sing “Silent Night”.)

***Hymn 164**

“Silent Night”

as the light is passed

Charge

Go forth to sing and bless God's name.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Benediction

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Stewart

**Welcome to Worship!**

We are happy to welcome all who worship with us tonight. 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.

Christmas Day Service

Please plan to join us for worship tomorrow morning, Sunday, December 25, at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate with “A Service of Lessons and Carols”.

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.

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.

MICA Needs

MICA needs spaghetti sauce and dried beans as well as other nonperishable food items. Our regular collection is the last Sunday of each month, but you may bring items on any other Sunday. Thanks.