



# J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024 \* 10:30 AM

## Gathering

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cassie Alston

### Prelude

*Jesus Lover of My Soul*

arr. Vickie Courtney

### Introit

*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DENNIS

### Call to Worship

Come, let us praise the true vine,  
**the true vine in whom we abide.**

We are branches, rooted in the love of Christ.

**In Him, we bear much fruit.**

Beloved, let us love one another.

**We love because he first loved us.**

### \*Hymn No. 558 (vv. 1, 4)

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BEECHER

### Gathering Prayer

Wondrous Vine Grower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded, that amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; 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

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and one another our failure to love our neighbor.

### Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### Declaration of Forgiveness

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you, in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Amen.**

## Word

### Prayer for Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world.  
**Amen.**

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

### Sermon

*Bearing Fruit*

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. 538

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

NEED

### The Invitation to the Offering

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning – of letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves – to extend the gospel witness into the world. Be generous in your ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

### Offertory

*My Jesus I love Thee*

arr. Cindy Berry

### \*Hymn No. 809 (Doxology)

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Through our offerings, O God, give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort. Make our many gifts one offering for the world; in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

## Sending

### \*Hymn No. 72 (v. 1)

*To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

### \*Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

*More Love to Thee*

W. H. Doane

\*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 pianist!

We extend a grateful and joyful welcome to our guest pianist Beverly Miller.

### White Elephant Sale this Wednesday!

All are invited to a White Elephant sale on Wednesday, May 1 at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Members and friends may bring one, two, or three items to the Fellowship Hall from 1:00-3:00 PM on May 1. With possible exceptions, items will be offered at nominal prices. Proceeds will be donated to the church. Food and refreshments will be served, and an untrained and rude auctioneer will be present. Please come for the fun and fellowship!

### Communion and MICA Collection Sunday: May 5, 2024

Next Sunday, May 5, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper (Communion) and collect non-perishable donations for the food pantry at McComb Interdenominational Care Association (MICA). From the Lord's table we are sent to feed others as we are fed. Please give generously to MICA on the first Sunday of each month!

### Address for Mary Ann and Tommy Ratcliff

We continue to pray for Mary Ann and Tommy Ratcliff as Mary Ann heals from surgery in Jacksonville. Tommy has provided their address, and many of us would like to send cards and letters. Mary Ann is on a restricted diet and cannot be exposed to flowers, so **please do not send food or flowers**. Cards and letters may be sent to the following address:

Mary Ann and Tommy Ratcliff  
5000 Kernan Blvd., Apt. 108  
Jacksonville, FL 32224

**Record from Last Sunday**

*Attendance: 46*

*Offering: \$3692.00*

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

Wednesday, 5/1	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
	5:30 PM	White Elephant Sale (Fellowship Hall)

### Upcoming Events

Sunday, 5/5	10:30 AM	Worship ( <b>Communion</b> ) MICA Sunday
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**Questions for Reflection:** What is your deepest desire? Jesus says that "whatever you wish...it will be done for you" (John 15:7). Spend time in the next days asking yourself at evermore profound levels what you most devoutly wish for in this life and the next. Then ask for it.

### Household Prayer: Morning

God of all beginnings, you bring a new day, and you promise to journey with me through the hours. I thank you for the breath and strength that I have, and I beg your help that I may use my powers wisely and with compassion toward everyone I meet; in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Household Prayer: Evening

Sweet Jesus, in this night of rest, heal my broken places and restore my faith. You are my vine; only in you am I strong enough to face the darkness of this world. I thank you for the safety of my home and pray for those who have no bed tonight. Make me grateful, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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 Wayne Hutchison in honor of Jennifer and Glenn Sanders.

*J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church*

110 Third Street \* P. O. Box 774 \* McComb, MS 39648 \* (601) 684-4189

Email: [jjwhitememorial@gmail.com](mailto:jjwhitememorial@gmail.com) \* web: [www.jjwhitememorial.org](http://www.jjwhitememorial.org) \* Facebook: JJWhiteMPC

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