



J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024 * 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cassie Alston

Prelude

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

arr. Carol Tornquist

Introit

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

*Call to Worship

Peace be with you.

How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.

Receive the Holy Spirit.

It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of God.

*Opening Prayer

Breathe into this place, O Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit; to open our minds, unlock our hearts, and enliven our faith so that we may welcome the risen One among us. **Amen.**

*Hymn No. 523

Trust and Obey

TRUST AND OBEY

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

We have an advocate with God – Jesus Christ, the righteous one – who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life – Jesus Christ – our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Sermon

New Life

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. 295

Breathe on Me Breath of God

TRENTHAM

+The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Insert

The Invitation to the Offering

In the spirit of the first believers, we are called to share our goods in common and contribute to the needs of the poor with glad and generous hearts. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory

In Christ Alone/Jesus Paid It All

arr. Cindy Berry

*Hymn No. 809 (Doxology)

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDT

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for light and life and love, and – above all – the presence of the living Lord among us. By your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Sending

*Hymn No. 561

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

CLOSER WALK

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

from *Lyra Davidica*

*Please stand as you are able.

+Gluten-free Communion bread available

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.

Communion Sunday and MICA Collection Sunday

Today, the first Sunday of the month, we celebrate the Lord's Supper (Communion) and collect non-perishable donations for the food pantry at McComb Interdenominational Care Association (MICA). The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of our communion with the crucified and risen Lord. Through it, Jesus Christ nourishes us in righteousness and discipleship. Communion is a gift of grace and also God's call to respond to that grace. 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!

Picnic on the Green: Sunday, April 21

Please come to our church-wide "Picnic on the Green" immediately following worship on Sunday, April 21. Bring your own picnic lunch and lawn chair. Beverages and deserts will be provided. Bring your friends and neighbors. There will be lots of fun and games!

Record from Last Sunday

Attendance: 108

Offering: \$6,730.00

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Tuesday, 4/9	11:30 AM	Women's Bible Study, Lesson 8 (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, 4/10	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

Upcoming Worship Events

Sunday, 4/14	10:30 AM	Third Sunday of Easter
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Session

Rev. Cassie Alston – Moderator	Watkins "Noggin Wild – Clerk	Wayne Hutchison – Treasurer
Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Melisa Decoux	Tommy Brock	Sarah Ross
Suzi Drummond	Linda Miller	Dr. Robbie Decoux
Whitney Rawlings	Watkins "Noggin' Wild	Sam Daniel

Questions for Reflection:

It all happened on Sunday. It was on "the first day of the week" (John 20:19) – the same day Jesus rose from the dead (John 20:1) – when the risen Lord appeared to a group of disciples in a locked house and offered them the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then, one week later (John 20:26), Jesus came again to the disciples (still shut inside the house), this time allowing Thomas to touch his hands and side. Think about the place where you gather for worship on Sunday. Is it open to the surprising presence of the Spirit? (If not, does the Spirit still move? Does Jesus show up anyway?) Are there times when your questions and doubts grow deeper? Are there times when your faith is strengthened and renewed?

Household Prayer: Morning

God of light, I praise you for the gift of this new day. By the power of your Spirit enable me to live in your light and seek the holy fellowship of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Be with me, Lord Jesus, at the evening of this day. Enter into my heart and fill it with your peace so that I may rejoice and rest in your presence. 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 Elise and John Reeves in honor of her mother Maxine Brock.

J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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

Email: jjwhitememorial@gmail.com * web: www.jjwhitememorial.org * Facebook: JJWhiteMPC

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