



J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024 \* 6:00 PM

*Gathering*

**Welcome and Announcements**

Cassie Alston

**Prelude**

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

arr. Pamela M. Robertson

**Introit**

*Wondrous Love*

arr. Arlen Clarke

**\*Call to Worship**

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

**sound the alarm upon the holy mountain!**

Let everyone tremble,

**for the day of the Lord is near.**

**\*Hymn No. 451 (vv. 1,4)**

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

ARISE

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your son, Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The Word*

**Prayer for Illumination**

By the illumination of your Holy Spirit, O God, open our hearts that we may hear your Word and amend our lives; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Scripture:** *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

**Sermon**

*"Dust and Treasure"*

Cassie Alston

**\*Hymn No. 445**

*Just As I Am*

WOODWORTH

**Reading from the Psalter**

*Psalms 51*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness; that they body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offender, and sinners shall be restored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

**(Unison) The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Litany of repentance**

Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

**Have mercy on us, O God,**

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways and for our exploitation of other people,

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

For our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and for our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**Have mercy on us O God.**

For our negligence in prayer and worship, and for our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **Have mercy on us, O God.**

For our waste and failure to care for your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**Have mercy on us, O God,**

Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.

**Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us. Amen.**

#### **Imposition of ashes**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, for it is only by your gracious gift that we are given the promise of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. **Amen.** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return! **Amen.**

### *Sending*

**\*Hymn No. 555**

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

MORE LOVE TO THEE

#### **Charge and blessing**

Disciples of Jesus, observe a Holy Lent; loose the bonds of injustice break the yoke of oppression, feed the hungry, shelter the poor.

With the blessing of God our maker, Christ our redeemer, and the Spirit our sustainer, receive the promise of Isaiah: Your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; God your protector shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

**Postlude**

*Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

arr. Anna Laura Page

**\*Please stand as you are able**

### *Announcements*

**Sunday, February 25, 2024, 4:00 PM the Service of Ordination and Installation for Rev. Cassandra "Cassie" Alston as Pastor of J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church.**

*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**