



J. J. WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024 * 10:30 AM

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Cassie Alston

Prelude

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

arr. Anna Laura Page

Introit

How Beautiful

arr. Benjamin Harlan

Call to Worship

Jesus said, "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself." Blessed be the God of our salvation who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

*Hymn No. 542 (vv. 1, 3)

Near to the Heart of God

McAFEE

Call to Confession

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts, confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

Prayer of Confession

Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as we ought; we have strayed from your commandments. Do not remember our sins, but forgive our iniquities, that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Brothers and Sisters, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. May you delight in the joy of your salvation.

Word

Anthem

The Power of the Cross

arr. Mark Hayes

Prayer for Illumination

Your Word, O God, has power to change our lives and to create a whole new world. As we meditate on your Word this day, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may fix our eyes on you. **Amen.**

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

Sermon

Drawn to Christ

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. 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Recognition and Thanksgiving for the Rev. Chris Richardson

Suzi Drummond, Whitney Rawlings

+The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Insert

The Invitation to the Offering

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and takes on new life, it remains just a single grain. With grateful hearts, let us bring the fruit of our lives to God.

Offertory

O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go

arr. Jay Rouse

*Hymn No. 809 (Doxology)

Praise God from Whom All Blessings

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

As the high priest Melchizedek blessed Abraham and offered his tithe of bread and wine at your holy altar, may our gifts be made perfect through Christ to glorify you and bless the world.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Sending

*Hymn No. 211 (vv. 1, 4)

Lead Me to Calvary

DUNCANNON

Charge and Benediction

May God, whose hand has written the law of love upon your heart, fill you with peace from deep within and with commitment to live in harmony. And the blessing of God, who loves, forgives, and calls us home, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Postlude

The Wonderful Cross

arr. Bill Wolaver

*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 hand of fellowship and invite you to join us again soon. Please fill out the blue card in your pew and place in the offering plate when passed.

Record from last Sunday

Attendance: 54

Offering: \$6,980.50

This Week at J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian

Tuesday, 3/19	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, 3/19	7:15 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, 3/20	5:30 PM	Pre-Easter Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, 3/23	8:00 AM	Church Workday (Youth Building)

Upcoming Worship Events

Palm Sunday, 3/24	10:30 AM	Liturgy of the Palms Palm Processional Bridget Regan, soprano Jeremy Threlfall, tenor Oscar Leal, cello
Maundy Thursday, 3/28	6:00 PM	Holy Thursday (Communion)
Good Friday, 3/29	6:00 PM	Good Friday
Easter Sunday, 3/31	10:30 AM	Easter/Resurrection of the Lord Bridget Regan, soprano Jeremy Threlfall, tenor

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:

God is at work offering forgiveness, showing mercy, and giving knowledge of life, death, and salvation. Where is God enacting that new life within or around you? What in your life must die so that you may flourish? What must fall away so that you can rise again in Christ?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day. Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours. Give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go as I seek to walk in your way of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Forgiving God, who makes all things new, you know where I have flourished this day, and you know where I have failed. Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope that enables me to more faithfully depend on you. May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed to greet the newness of your day. 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 Suzi and John Drummond in thanks and praise to God for the miracle of Spring.

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