



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new  
creation—everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!"*

II Corinthians 5:17

MCMLIV



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# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude – *Ciacona*

Johann Pachelbel

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

God of thundering glory and wondrous love, you lifted up Jesus Christ from the earth to draw all people to your holy name. Like grains of wheat that fall to the dust, teach us to die—and so to bear much fruit, giving our lives for the sake of the gospel, following and serving Christ Jesus forever. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Bob Lochhead

Call to Worship (responsive)

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

**when I will make a new covenant with you.**

And now the promised hour has come,

**when the Lord of life will be lifted up.**

Let us worship God.

\* Hymn of Praise 182 – *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

\* Call to Confession

In the name of Christ, I urge you: Be reconciled to God. Trusting in **God's** grace, let us confess our sin.

\* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God our Redeemer, we confess that we are people of ashes and dust. You write your law in our hearts, yet we pretend we do not know you. You lifted up Christ for all to see, yet we turn away from your glory. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to delight in your way, to seek you with all our hearts, and to trust in your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(time for silent confession)

\* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Listen, the time has come at last. Look, now is the day of salvation! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

\* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.**

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Christopher Crotwell

Prayer for Illumination

God of all glory, by the wisdom of your Word and the pouring out of your Spirit, let the same mind be in us that is in Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

pew Bible pg. 642

The Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *Lead, Kindly Light*

Howard Goodall

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, Lead Thou me on!  
The night is dark, and I am far from home: Lead Thou me on!  
Keep my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene, one step enough for me.  
I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou shouldst lead me on.  
I loved to choose and see my path, but now lead Thou me on!  
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears, pride ruled my will:  
Remember not past years, remember not past years.  
So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still will lead me on  
Over moor and fen, over crag and torrent, till the night is gone;  
And with the morn those angel faces smile which I have loved long since,  
and lost awhile, loved since, and lost awhile.

Second Reading – John 12:20-33

pew Bible pg. 875

The Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *The Hour Has Come*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

- \* Hymn of Thanksgiving 209 – *My Song Is Love Unknown*
- \* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from the PCUSA Study Catechism, Q. 43 (responsive)

What does it mean that Jesus was “crucified, dead and buried”?

**That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.**

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Out of the ashes, up from the dust we bring our prayers to God, saying: In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for the church . . . Teach us to treasure your word of grace and to live faithfully as your people, so that all may know that you are our God. In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for the world . . . Drive out false leaders and wicked rulers; draw all people to your way of truth and life, bringing justice and peace to every land. In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for this community . . . Hasten the coming of that great day when all people—from the greatest to the least—will know the promise of your holy realm. In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for loved ones . . . Hear the prayers and tears of all who suffer. By the saving power of Christ Jesus deliver them from sickness, sin, and death. In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

Restore in us, O God, the joy of your salvation; renew and sustain our spirits, so that we may live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, our hope and strength. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Jesus says: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Let us offer the gifts of our lives in love and service to the Lord.

Offertory – *Shades Mountain*

John Eggert

\* The Doxology – Hymn 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**We praise and thank you, Lord God, for the majesty of your work, the wisdom of your word, and the generosity of your grace. You have shown us, O God, the sacrifice that you desire. Now use these gifts—and use our lives—to liberate the oppressed, to break the bonds of injustice, to feed the hungry, welcome the poor, and unite the human family; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn of Consecration 724 – *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

\* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

May the steadfast love of God, the abundant grace of Jesus Christ, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: If any wish to be my disciples let them take up the cross and follow me. **Amen.**

\* Postlude – *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

Walter L. Pelz



# PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(\* new added prayers)

*Terri Banks, friend of Pam Love – at UAB with reaction to chemo*

*Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's*

*Melissa Boivin, Jan Bozeman's family friend – at home, upcoming facial cosmetic surgery*

*Jan Bozeman – constant pain*

*Margaret Breland, friend of Jan Bozeman – at home, in therapy*

*Janet Burke – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)*

*\*Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues*

*Vida Davis, sister of Ruthie Davis – dementia*

*\*Cindy Dawson, Catherine Sampson's daughter – cancer treatment at M D Anderson*

*Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd) no visitors*

*Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance*

*Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia*

*Wendy Graham, Jan Bozeman's sister – at home on Hospice*

*Kenny Harrell*

*\*Anderson Hembree, son of a friend of Nancy Johnson – prayers for successful physical therapy*

*Ann Johnson*

*Geraldine Jones*

*Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's*

*\*B.J. Lambert – pain from fracture of vertebra*

*Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength*

*\*Cala Raborn – recovering from car accident*

*Fergus Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's nephew – severe pain*

*\*Kem Reid, Ryan Reid's father – ICU in New Orleans*

*Dena Faye Robertson, Glenn Nobles' sister – hospice for Alzheimer's*

*Ray Robinson – finished treatment*

*Zach Ross, friend of Althea Jerome – at UMMC with serious head injuries from car accident*

*Jeannette Russell, Janet Burke's twin sister – serious health issues*

*Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)*

*Dr. Joe Washburn, Jan Bozeman's doctor – cancer, taking chemo*

*John Watkins, Rose Marie Yore's brother – prayers for healing*

*Sandra Young, mother of a friend of Carolyn McLarnan – on hospice*

## PRAYERS OF COMFORT

*For family and friends of Jeanne Herring*

### Holy Week Summary

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday Service at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, March 29 Good Friday Service at noon

Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.

Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.





# Greeting and Announcements

**Welcome to Westminster!** We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

**The March/April *Today* devotionals are on the narthex cabinet.**

**The Session** will meet today at 11:35 a.m.

**Youth and Children** will meet today 5-6:30 p.m. A meal will be provided.

**New Beginnings** will meet tomorrow at noon. Jeff Haydel will answer questions about the computer and online usage. There is a box for questions for Jeff in the narthex. Make plans to attend and let either Tommy or Martha know.

All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday at 7 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery.



Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are encouraged. We need a headcount, so please place a reservation slip in the offering plate or call the office.

**Menu:** Adults — Sante Fe chicken, green salad, French bread and dessert

**Activities** at 6

**Chancel Choir** will meet at 6:30.

**Breadbasket volunteers are needed.** Westminster has Breadbasket March 25-28. Please call Martha (601-584-7574) to volunteer.



**It is time to purchase Easter lilies. A signup sheet is on the narthex cabinet. The cost is \$15 per lily. Deadline is March 24. Please leave money or check in a brown envelope and put in the pink box on the narthex cabinet. This is a fundraiser for the youth and children's summer camps.**

The Youth are **collecting small individually wrapped candy** (no chocolate) for the Easter Egg Hunt. There is a basket by the church office for any donations. Also, Katie is in need of assorted colors of Play-Doh.

**You are cordially invited to  
Jackson Creel's senior organ recital.**

**It will be held at  
Provine Chapel  
on the campus of Mississippi College  
in Clinton  
Sunday, April 7, at 3 p.m.**



*The Presbytery of Mississippi  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Invites you to the Ordination and  
Installation of Rev. Chase Caldwell  
as Associate Pastor of  
First Presbyterian Church,  
117 South Pearl Street, Natchez, MS  
Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 4  
o'clock p.m.*

Just as the human body needs eyes, hands, ears, lungs, etc., so does the Body of Christ. We have many small group opportunities for growth, fellowship and service here at Westminster. We encourage members to use their gifts to participate in the mission of this congregation and to invite others to join us in serving Jesus Christ.

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**The Seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

A Symbolic Statement of the Church

The Cross – Christianity

The Transept – Bible and Pulpit

The Dove – The Holy Spirit

The Intersection – Baptismal Font or

Communion Cup

Flames – Implied triangle, the Trinity

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**Class of 2024**

Erik Graham  
Randall Harris  
Carolyn McLarnan

**THE SESSION**

**Class of 2025**

David Daves  
Dan Davis  
Beth Richmond

**Class of 2026**

Iris Easterling  
Jeff Haydel  
Rhoda Pickett

**THE TRUSTEES**

Robert Cummings, Jr.   Althea Jerome   J T Johnson

**Class of 2024**

Kathy Cain  
Mary Cromartie  
Chad Edmonson  
Jacob Suttle

**THE DEACONS**

**Class of 2025**

Alice Crotwell  
Pam Dossett  
Susan Higgs  
Howard Keever

**Class of 2026**

Dixie Coats  
Christopher Cox  
Carrie Creel  
Michael Yore

**Youth**

Sam Haydel

**Representative**

**CHURCH STAFF**

Christopher Crotwell, Minister  
Sinclair Lundy, Financial Secretary  
Kay Guiles, Organist  
Katie Ginn, Youth and Children Director

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship  
Martha Davis, Church Administrator  
Wes Brooks, Communications  
Ray Robinson, Sexton

Michael Ginn, Chancel Choir; **Children's Music Director**