



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

115 N. 25th Ave. Hattiesburg, MS 39401
westminster@wpchattiesburg.com
facebook.com/westminsterhattiesburg1954
www.westminster-hattiesburg.com
(601) 584-7574

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude – *Trumpet Tune*

Paul Fey

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

Living God, in Jesus Christ, who stands among us, we have seen the marks of your saving love. Breathe on us with the power of your Spirit and send us out to share the peace of Christ so that all the world may believe in him and receive the gift of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Jacob Suttle

Call to Worship (responsive)

The peace of God is with us.

Christ Jesus stands among us.

By the power of the Holy Spirit

we have seen the risen Lord.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 248 – *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

* Call to Confession

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in **God's** grace, let us confess our sin.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of all hope and joy, we confess that we continue to live in fear. We claim that we have no sin but you know the truth about us. We say that we have not seen you even when you stand among us now. Forgive us, God of grace. Breathe on us with your Spirit to set us free from doubt and sin, so that we may be at peace with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

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

**Glorify 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

Alicia Westbrook

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, send us your Spirit to guide us into the truth, so that we may know and trust the good news of the gospel, and look with hope and joy for the life of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Acts 4:32-35

pew Bible pg. 888

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *The Peace of God*

John Rutter

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: (repeat)

Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,

be amongst you, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen

Second Reading – John 20:19-31

pew Bible pg. 883

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *So That You Might Come to Believe* Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

- * Hymn of Thanksgiving 256 – *These Things Did Thomas Count as Real*
- * Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from the PCUSA Study Catechism, Q. 46 (responsive)
What does it mean that “on the third day” Jesus “rose again from the dead”?
That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

In the blessed hope of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord of endless life, saying:
By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the church . . . Keep us faithful in the fellowship of Jesus Christ, walking in the light of his life and love, proclaiming the good news he has revealed. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the world . . . Enable the families of the earth to live together in harmony and justice, in unity and peace, so that all may know your blessing of abundant life. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for this community . . . Let us be of one heart and one soul in you. Take all that we have and hold in common and distribute it for the good of those in need. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for loved ones . . . Be present to all who need to know you are near. Encourage those who struggle with doubt or despair. Breathe among us with the power of your peace. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.** Eternal God, show forth in us and in our world the good news of your saving power and love, so that all may believe and have life in you; through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed. **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

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need? Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer the gifts of our lives.

Offertory – *The Strife Is O'er* Alan Bullard

* 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)

Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 236 – *The Strife Is Over*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

Beloved children, may the love of the holy triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—abide with you forever. **Alleluia!**

Now go forth in Jesus' name, remembering his new commandment to love one another, just as he has loved us. Amen.

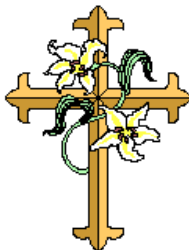
* Postlude – *O Sons and Daughters of the King*

Healey Willa

*There will be a congregational meeting following the service.
If you need to leave, please do so during the Postlude.*



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**
The liturgy for this service was drawn from the *Book of Common Worship* (2018)
and *Call to Worship Lectionary Aids for 2014-2015, Year B.*



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 MD 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

Fergus Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's nephew – severe pain

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

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

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

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

Family and friends of Alvin Mitchell, Ruthie Davis' brother-in-law



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 session has called for a congressional meeting following worship today. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear a report from the church officer nominating committee and to elect new officers for the class of 2027.

Deacons:

1. Matthew Boucher
2. Judy Haydel
3. Ryan Reid
4. Sarah Beth Suttle
5. Susan Crotwell (youth)

Elders:

1. Tom Estes
 2. Karen Reidenbach
 3. Connie Roberts
- Trustee: J. T. Johnson

Youth and Children will leave following worship today to go to the Aquarium in Gulfport and will return by 5:30 p.m. Be sure to bring your sack lunch.

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and **Circle 2** will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Brown Bag will meet Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Choir will meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

Deacons will meet April 14 at 11:35 a.m. and the **Session** will meet April 21.

New Beginnings will meet Monday, April 15, at noon. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you are coming.

High School or College Students are needed to tutor reading (K-5) this summer in Hattiesburg. It is a paid position. To apply, contact Katie at kemartz@olemiss.edu. There are flyers on the table by the double doors.

May 3 is the Dessert and Casserole Auction.

May 12 is Youth Sunday.

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.



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

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

Representative

Sam Haydel

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**