



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

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THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude – *Processional* William Matthias

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

Holy One, you have made us witnesses to the good news of the gospel—that Jesus Christ, our flesh and bone, is risen from the dead. Open our minds to understand these things, and let your word be fulfilled in us so that we may share the bread of life with a hungry world; through Jesus Christ, our peace. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Alicia Westbrook

Call to Worship (responsive)

On the cross, Jesus suffered and died.

We are witnesses: Lord, have mercy.

But now Jesus is risen from the dead.

We are witnesses: He is risen indeed!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 244 – *This Joyful Eastertide*

* 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. You sent the Lord of life among us yet we gave him up to die. You raised him from the dead yet we still do not believe. Forgive us, God of grace. Help us to receive with gratitude the great gift of love you offer, and live as your beloved children; 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

Matthew Boucher

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 – 1 John 3:1-7
990

pew Bible pg.

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *Forever King!*

lyrics-Johanna Anderson music-Dan Forrest

Who is God, that we should praise Him? Who is He, that we should sing?

Who is this exalted Savior, crowned the everlasting King?

Why fall at His feet in worship, Alleluias to Him bring?

Architect of every atom, Author of each passing hour,

Chief of all the changing seasons, Maker of each field and flower,

Speaking all into existence, God of majesty and power!

Morning Stars, all sing together, shout for joy, ye sons of God!

Rocks and stones, O be not silent, streams and rivers, give Him laud!

Clouds that frame the dome of heaven, sound your thunder and applaud!

Can creation fail to praise Him? How can we refuse to sing?

Come, fall at His feet in worship, Alleluias to Him Bring!

Reigning in eternal brightness, crown our Christ forever King! (repeat bold)

Second Reading – Luke 24:36b-48

pew Bible pg. 861

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *You Are Witnesses of These Things*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 450 – *Be Thou My Vision*

* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from the PCUSA Study Catechism, Q. 85 (responsive)

What is the nature of resurrection hope?

Resurrection hope is a hope for the transformation of this world, not a hope for escape from it. It is the hope that evil in all its forms will be utterly eradicated, that past history will be redeemed, and that all the things that ever were will be made new. It is the hope of a new creation, a new heaven and a new earth, in which God is really honored as God, human beings are truly loving, and peace and justice reign on earth.

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 . . . Bless and keep us, as your beloved children, so that your goodness and grace may be known in us. Strengthen us in

hope and save us from our sin. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the world . . . Lead the rulers and people of every nation to repent of their violence and corruption and trust instead in your way of life and peace. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for this community . . . Transcend the walls and boundaries that divide us. Stand among us as our living Lord. Cast out our fear so that we may live in your peace. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for loved ones . . . Be gracious to all who are in trouble or distress. Show them your goodness; put gladness in their hearts, so that they may find peace and safety in you. 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 – *Intermezzo*

Josef Rheinberger

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* 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 295 – *Go to the World!*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

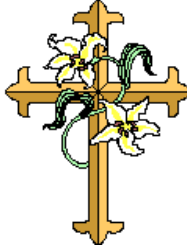
Beloved children, may the love of the holy triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—abide with you forever. **Alleluia!**

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

* Postlude – *Sortie*

Richard Knight





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



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.

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

New Beginnings will meet tomorrow at noon. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you are coming.

Youth and Children will meet today at 5-6:30 pm. A meal will be provided.

PW Prayer Ministry will meet Tuesday at 10 a.m. There are prayer cards on the back of the pew for prayer requests. Please put the address so a card can be sent and place with the offering.

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.

This week begins Westminster's emphasis on the PW Birthday offering. Flyers are in the bulletin. Also, be sure to check out the posters on the Sunday school room windows by the elevator and go to youtube.com/presbyterianwomen to see a video about the 2024 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women.

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.



To donate to WPC online, scan the QR code and follow the instructions.

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**