



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude – *Paeon*

Robert Lau

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

God of the glorious garden, giver of grace, apart from your Word we can do nothing. Cultivate in us a sense of connection in Christ. Prune our excess and help us to grow in faith so that we may bear good fruit for the world; through Jesus Christ, the true vine. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Durwood Blackwell

Call to Worship (responsive)

Christ Jesus is the true vine

and we are the branches.

God is love; abide in God,

and God will abide in you.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 475 – *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

* 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 make us branches of your vine, but we fail to abide in you. You extend your promise to all, yet we seek to cut off and exclude. Forgive us, God of grace. Sanctify us in your perfect love, the love that casts out all fear, so that we may truly love one another; 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

Althea Jerome

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 – Exodus 19:1-6
57

pew Bible pg.

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *The Apple Tree*

K. Lee Scott

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but never can tell
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ, the apple tree.
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

Second Reading – John 15:1-8

pew Bible pg. 878

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *BE Somebody!*

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

- * Hymn of Thanksgiving 226 – *There in God's Garden* (vs. 1, 2, 5, 6)
- * 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 . . . Help us to abide in Christ, like branches of a vine. Fill us with your power and prune away our sin, so that we may bear good fruit, giving glory to you. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the world . . . Let all the ends of the earth remember your love, lifting up the lowly, feeding those who hunger, until all peoples know your saving strength. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for this community . . . Open our doors to seekers and strangers; let all who have been cut off and cast aside be welcomed into the covenant of your care. By your grace, O God, **raise us from death to life.**

Life-giving God, we pray for loved ones . . . Reveal your love in the lives of those who suffer. Confirm their faith and cast out their fear. Abide in them, that they may abide 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 – *Now the Green Blade Riseth*

Robert Lau

* 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 703 – *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

* 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.

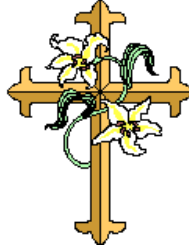
* Postlude – *Allegro*

George F.

Handel



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**



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

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

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

**Susan Kuehn, Althea Jerome's sister – multiple myeloma treatment*

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

For the family and friends of Kenny Harrell



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 May/June *Today* devotionals are on the narthex cabinet.

Youth only will meet today from 5-6:30 pm. A meal will be provided.

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.

Today, we finish Westminster's emphasis on the PW Birthday offering. There are envelopes in the bulletin. Please place in the offering plate. 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.

There will be a **luncheon following the worship service on May 5** provided by the deacons. Please make plans to attend.



It's time to stir up your favorite recipes for the **Dessert and Casserole Auction** on Wednesday, May 1, following supper. The money raised goes to the youth and children trips during the summer.



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**