

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Sonata III: Adagio e dolce*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Eternal God, we thank you for light, for golden sunlight, silver moonlight, the stars that map our skies, a crackling fire on which to cook, and the shining faces of those around us. Help us to meet you in the darkness, that, without the need for sight, we may learn you are as close to us as our own breath, skin, and bones, knit in our very being, in this moment and forever. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Tommy Suttle

Call to Worship – (*responsive*)

The Lord God keeps us, saves us, and protects us in times of trouble.

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Even when fear strikes us, we know that we are safe, for we belong to God.

We shall never be shaken or moved, for we are shadowed by God's almighty hand.

We lift our voices together in thanks and praise.

* Hymn of Praise 292 – *As the Wind Song*

* Call to Confession

Our help does truly come from God. This help is not just for the times when trouble befalls us, or when our lives are hard, but when we are the ones who are to blame, when we face the consequences of our own actions. Knowing that, we turn to God for help, trusting in unending grace.

* Prayer of Confession – (*unison*)

Lord Jesus, you call us to go, following the plan that you have set out for us. You promise us blessings and purpose, but we do not trust your words. We cling to what we already know, we trust in what we can see and touch, we make excuses for our failure to trust in you. Call to us again, that we may be born again through your Spirit. Help us to believe and give us the abundant life that comes from following your will.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (*responsive*)

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **Thanks be to God. We will bear witness to God's saving grace with our lives.**

* 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

Michael Ginn

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Romans 4:1-5

pew Bible pg. 916

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *The Secret of Christ*

Richard Shephard

For a long time, I have held my peace, but now will I speak.

I will lead the blind in a way they know not,

In paths that they have not known I will guide them.

I will turn their darkness into light, and I will not forsake them.

And he showed me a pure river of the water of life,

Clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God;

And on either side of the river was there a tree of life,

And the leaves of the trees were for the healing, the healing of the nations.

Help us, Lord, to persevere in prayer with minds awake and thankful hearts,

That we may share the secret of Christ with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage,

Following in the steps of Jesus, our Master and our friend. Amen.

Second Reading – John 3:1-17

pew Bible pg. 863

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *So That Everyone Who Believes*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

* Communion Hymn 498 – *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*

Invitation to Offering

Jesus says: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Wondrous Love*

Dale Wood

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving (*responsive*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

The Words of Institution

The Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness, help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Hymn of Consecration 649 – *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

* 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.**

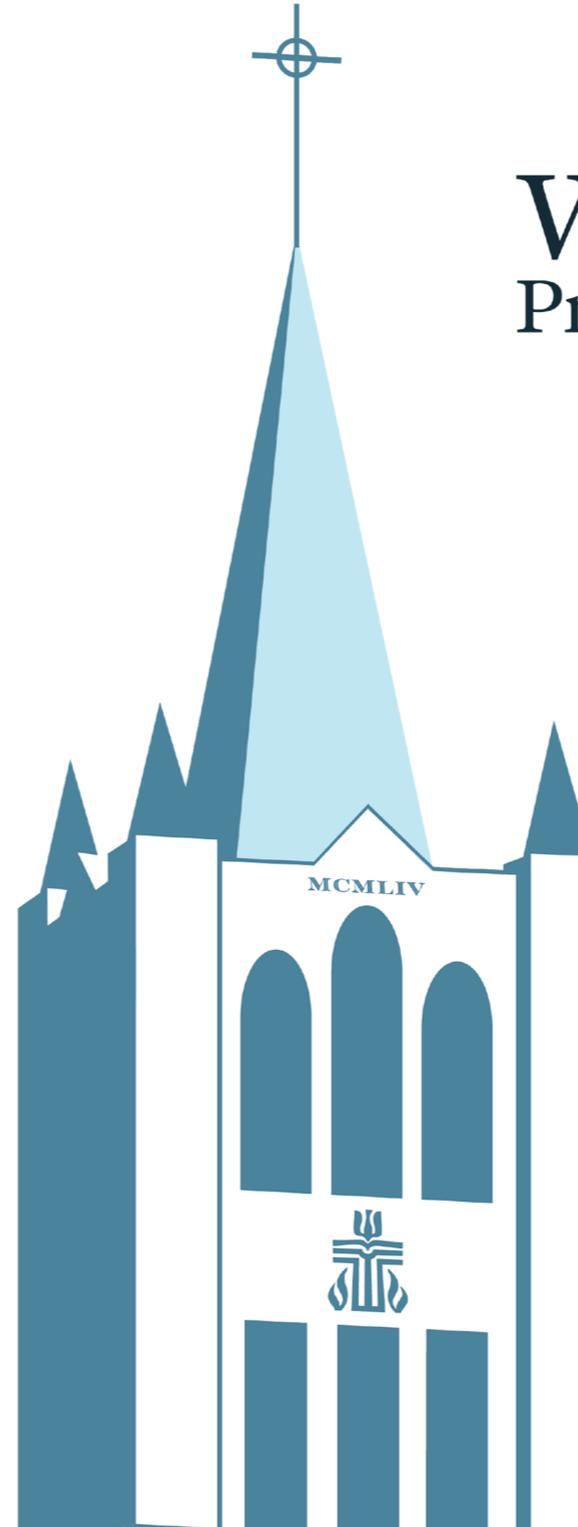
Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: If any wish to be my disciples let them take up the cross and follow me. **Amen.**

* Postlude – *Toccata on Amazing Grace*

Christopher Pardini



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**.
Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created by the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.



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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(* new added prayers)

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Larry & Margaret Burge of Poplarville, friend of Michael Yore – Larry has cancer

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

Deidra Dickenson, Kathy Cain's sister – onset dementia

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

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

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Lee Graham, Pam Love's son-in-law – health issues

Jim Harris, Dixie Coats' brother-in-law's father – in hospital with serious health issues

**Mckenna Hawkins, daughter of Michael Yore's friend – cancer*

Charles "Rocky" Hartfield, friend of Pam Love – health issues

Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister – continued strength through addiction recovery

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

**Terri Johnson, Ann Johnson's daughter-in-law – recovery from ankle surgery*

Geraldine Jones

B.J. Lambert

Peggy McCarthy, friend of Iris Easterling – facing serious health issues

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues

Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – broken shoulder

Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues

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

Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage

Ella Young, sister of Janet Baldwin – struggling with dementia

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

*For family and friends of Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father
and Jackson, Oliver and Brody's grandfather*

For the family and friends of Manfred Saylor, Iris Easterling's cousin



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.

Today, we will observe the **sacrament of communion**. All are welcome to receive God's gifts at the table. So that all may be served, we will use grape juice and gluten-free bread. Communion Sundays

are also **Breadbasket Sundays**—a time when you are encouraged to make contributions to the Breadbasket ministry.

The March/April Today devotionals (large and small print) are on the narthex cabinet.

Devotionals for the Season of Lent are available on the narthex table.

Growing Spiritually will meet today following worship.

Youth and Children will meet today from 5:00-6:30. A meal will be provided.

PW Coordinating Team will meet on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Men of the Church will meet on Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery.

Deacons will meet on Mar. 8 after worship, and **the Session** will meet on March 15.



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: Smothered pork chops, rice, vegetable medley, salad, rolls and dessert

Activity

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

During the Lenten Season, a lunch and free concert series will be held every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at various churches in Hattiesburg.

On March 4, **Main Street United Methodist Church** will host Dr. Katrina Cox, a mezzo-soprano and Dr. Christina Mathis a college piano professor. To make a lunch reservation, please call 601-582-5557 on Monday.

For additional information, brochures are available on the narthex cabinet.

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

