

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Processional*

Martin Shaw

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

God of all journeys, the road we travel is stony, and often we struggle to hold fast to hope. But in you, we find new courage, new purpose, and new life. By your grace, teach us to live as your Easter people, with mercy, compassion, and justice. Guide us with your light, that in your all-sufficient presence, we might raise our voices in endless praise. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Tommy Suttle

Call to Worship – (*responsive*)

Christ is a living stone, precious in God's sight, and on him we build our lives.

We are God's people, and we proclaim God's mighty acts, for we have been called out of darkness and into the light.

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

With hearts lifted in praise, we come to worship.

* Hymn of Praise 624 – *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

* Call to Confession

Jesus taught us mercy by praying for the forgiveness of those who killed him. This miraculous grace assures us that no matter what we have done, no matter the words we have left unsaid, we can come to Christ with our honest confession.

* Prayer of Confession – (*unison*)

Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it. We do not believe all you have said to us; we do not trust the way you have shown us. Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way, and lead us into new life.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (*responsive*)

Beloved, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Jesus prepares a place for us, Jesus brings us close to him, Jesus answers us even in our unbelief. **We are God's own people. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

* 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

Tommy Suttle

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – 1 Peter 2:2-10

pew Bible pg. 984

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

Anthem – *Let Not Your Heart be Troubled*

Mark Dickey

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. (repeat)
In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so,
I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you; I go to prepare a place for you.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. (repeat)

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Peace, I leave with you.

Second Reading – John 14:1-14

pew Bible pg. 877

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

Sermon – *The Way, the Truth, the Life*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

* Communion Hymn 724 – *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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 our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Panis Angelicus*

César Franck

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 Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Thank you, O God, for giving us communion with our risen and glorious Lord. Now send us out to be a sign of the new life that has come into the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* Hymn of Consecration 634 – *To God Be the Glory*

* Blessing and Charge (*responsive*)

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 – *Cortège*

Gordon Young

There will be a called congregational meeting following the service.

If you need to leave, please do so during the Postlude.

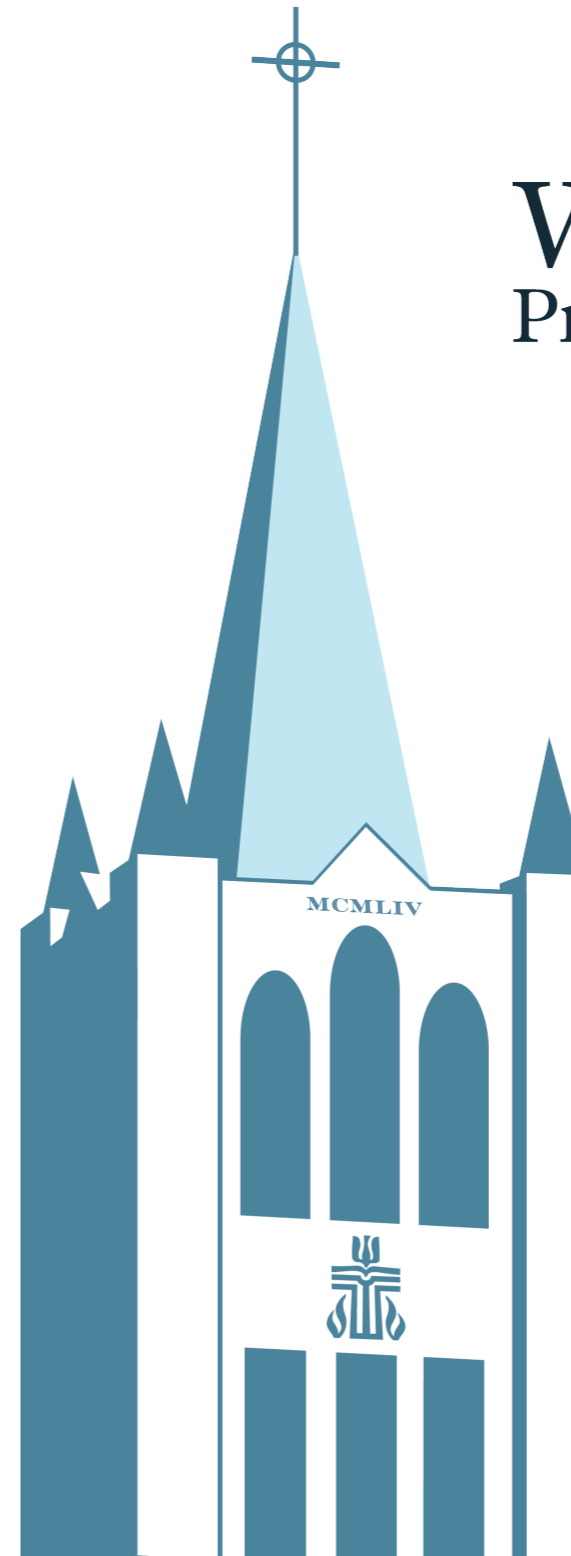


* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**. Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

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)

Janet Baldwin – family issues

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Dutchie Bryant – recovering from fall

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

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

Malcolm Curtis, Janet Baldwin's co-worker – health issues

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

Erica Gilmore, friend of Janet Baldwin – family issues

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

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

Geraldine Jones

B.J. Lambert

**Rebecca Lawrence, friend of Karen Reidenbach – recovering from injuries from a car accident.*

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

**Lola Norris – recovery from a fall*

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

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

Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLaman's sister-in-law – lymph nodes issues

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

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

Jerry Spann, friend of Ruthie Davis – cancer

Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage

Ella Young, sister of Janet Baldwin – struggling with dementia



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 congregational meeting for 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 2029.

Elders:

1. Shane Brooks
2. Allen Meadows
3. Chad Miller

Deacons:

1. Chad Edmonson
2. Lucy Parkman
3. Dawn Tanner

Class of 2027: Nancy Johnson

Youth Deacon: Olivia Reid

Trustee: Gene Owens

*Note the nominating committee is currently working to find one more deacon to serve in the class of 2029.

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

The Youth will meet today from 5-6:30 p.m. A meal will be provided.

PW Coordinating Team meeting will be Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

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

Wednesday night supper at 5:30 p.m., then the dessert auction.

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

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

Dessert and Casserole Auction

is on Wednesday, May 6.

The money raised goes to summer trips.

A meal will be provided.

(reservation slips are in bulletin)



May 10 is Youth Sunday.

Please support our youth.

They are working hard planning the service. This is a great time for you to see the talents of our youth.

Reminder: During the summer months as the AC runs more frequently in the church, please help us be good stewards by keeping the interior doors of the building closed as much as possible. Thank you.



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