

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Let All Things Their Creator Bless* Alfred V. Fedak

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

God of goodness, we thank you for choosing us. Teach us your good news, that we might be brought to life: every blessing we receive and every kindness we encounter is your Spirit whispering grace. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Alicia Westbrook

Call to Worship (responsive)

In this place,
friends and strangers meet, the broken are mended, and the weary welcomed.

In this moment,
the ordinary becomes miraculous, and life is on pause. This is God's time.

In this sanctuary,
God's goodness is revealed. Our doors open with kindness. Our lives join together.

* Hymn of Praise 415 – *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

* Call to Confession

God has chosen us, but we frequently fail to choose God's will for our lives. Let us go before God, seeking forgiveness and peace.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that are yours. If we are honest, we know we hold so much back. We have promised you our obedience, but we often fulfill our own desires first. We have promised you our worship, but we give our attention to idols instead. We have promised to do your work in the world, but we put it last on the list of priorities. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Increase our generosity that we might give freely, grateful for all of the gifts you have given us. (time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

The good news remains true: God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us, helping us become imitators of Christ. **Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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

Michael Ginn

Prayer for Illumination

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 45:1-7

pew Bible pg. 588

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *Giver of Every Perfect Gift*

K. Lee Scott

Giver of every perfect gift, You shape my life from womb to grave.
That plants me in this time and place. Reveal your good and gracious will.
Display the gifts assigned to me. Make them a witness to your name.
You planned and know the gifts I have; creator God, from you they come,
Unique and special, from your heart, intended for a chosen role.
Thrill me to find and recognize the talents only you can give.
Revealing Word, sent Son of God, proclaimer of the kingdom's dawn.
It is for you, because of you, that every talent is bestowed.
You have a part for me to fill, a purpose for this life of mine.
Enabling Spirit, gift of gifts, empower me, stir up my faith,
Make me an instrument of grace, of mercy, blessing, peace, and joy.
Let me not miss another day in seeing what your gifts can do.
Giver of every perfect gift.

Second Reading – Matthew 22:15-22

pew Bible pg. 803

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *Whose Head, Whose Title*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

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

* Affirmation of Faith: *The Heidelberg Catechism 1562, 4.001 (responsive)*

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Our shepherd satisfies our needs; in faith, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we pray for the church . . . Make us steadfast in our love and service, remembering your people in our prayers and giving thanks to you in all things. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the earth . . . Let the whole earth sing a new song to you: a song of redemption, of gladness and joy; a song of thanksgiving for your saving grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for all nations . . . In every place, anoint faithful leaders, who know your name and seek your will, who share your love of justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for this community . . . Break down the walls that divide us; bend the bars that imprison us in fear; open the doors that lead to new life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for loved ones . . . Speak healing to those who are hurting; give courage to those who are afraid; let your grace and peace be known to all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving shepherd, lead and guide us—in green pastures and by still waters, in right paths and through dark valleys, until we feast with you in glory and dwell in your house forever; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Prelude on Thaxted*

John A. Behnke

* 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)

God of the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds of your love in our world and in our lives. As we bring our gifts to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope, planted deeply in our community. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 370 – *This Is My Father's World*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

The blessing of the holy, triune God, who was and is and is to come—first and last, beginning and end, Alpha and Omega—be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**
Go in peace to love the Lord your God with heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

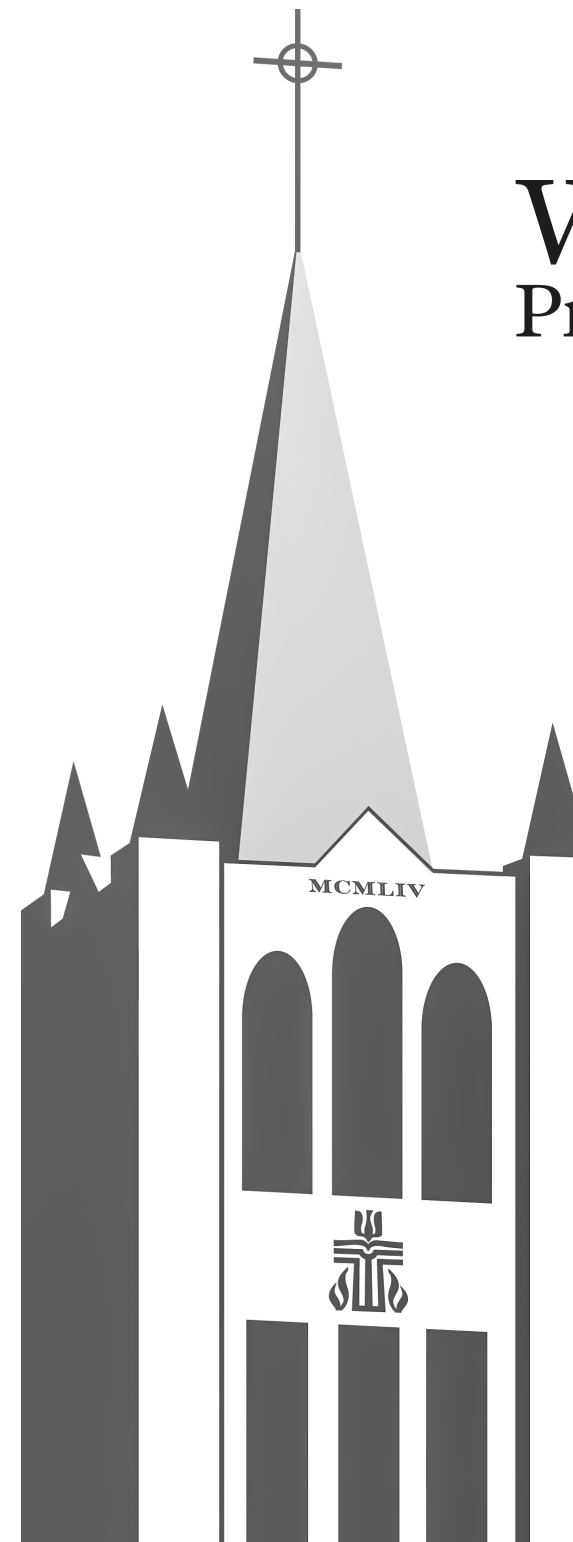
* Postlude – *Toccata in D Minor*

Gordon Balch Nevin



* 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)

Janet Baldwin – family issues

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

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

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

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

Rod Kyriakides, friend of Eric Reidenbach - diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

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

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

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

**Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – continued prayers*

Franklin Eugene Roberts, Robin Roberts' brother – health concerns

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.

Today, there is a luncheon following worship. All are invited to attend for food and fellowship.

The September/October *Today* devotionals are on the narthex cabinet.

The **Session** will meet today after lunch.

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

PW Prayer Ministry will meet Tuesday at 10:00 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. Come join this group as they pray and write cards.

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

There will be no Wednesday night supper or activities.

Choir will meet at 6:30 p.m.

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



The Youth

will sell \$10 parking slots
Saturday, Oct. 24,
starting at 2:00 p.m.



To donate
to WPC

New Beginnings will meet tomorrow at noon. Come and support Mae Westbrook who will be sharing about DECA, a high school club focused on business and entrepreneurship. She will be sharing about her DECA Community Giving Project benefitting Abbie Rogers Civitan Camp. Please let Martha or Tommy know if you are coming.

This Sunday continues our PW mission emphasis of the "Thank Offering".

There is an envelope in the bulletin for your gift and for more information about the Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women, visit presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

The Furniture Ministry needs donations. Call the office to find out what is needed or to sign up for a pickup.

PW's least coin donation container has been moved to a narthex cabinet. Please continue to bring your coins to donate. These coins are used for grants that promote evangelism, service, and ecumenical solidarity. . . among women throughout the world.