

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Beach Spring*

Raymond Haan

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

God of heaven and earth, in a cloud of confusion, we seek revelation. In the face of manipulation, we seek truth. In the gloom of regret, we seek new life. Speak to us now; grant us intention and tenderness, so that we may witness to your work in the world and in us, through Jesus the Christ, our healer and hope. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Jacob Suttle

Call to Worship (responsive)

We are children of light,  
**rejoicing in everything good and right and true.**

We worship the Lord who heals, liberates, and raises us from the dead.

**In the dream of the beloved community of God, we are awake, and we stand in the light of Christ.**

Let us worship God.

\* Hymn of Praise 490 – *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

\* Call to Confession

How do we know when our actions are right? When the fruits of our labors are good and true. Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden, but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment. Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ's gaze.

\* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace.** (time for silent confession)

\* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Jesus restores our souls and leads us in right paths for his name's sake. **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.**

\* 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

Althea Jerome

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 – 1 Samuel 16:1-13

pew Bible pg. 226

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

Anthem – *At the River*

arr. by Aaron Copeland

Michael Ginn, soloist

Second Reading – John 9:1-41

pew Bible pg. 871

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

Sermon – *In the Absence of Jesus*

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving 800 – *Sometimes a Light Surprises*

\* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from The Confession of 1967, 9.31 (unison) –

**To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.**

Prayers of the People (responsive)

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness and suffering; therefore, with boldness, let us seek God's grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . . By your grace, make us children of light, reflecting the glory of our Savior—Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . . Renew in us a vision of the world restored, shining with the splendor of your glory, unstained by the sin of human greed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . . Raise up new leaders among us, new shepherds who will defend the weak and lead us all in paths of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . . Help us to notice our neighbors in need. Give us the courage and compassion to see them all as your beloved children. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . . Accompany those who walk in darkness; protect those who are facing danger; comfort those who live in fear. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers, knowing that you alone can provide grace to help in our time of need; in the name of our great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and 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

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

Offertory – *Song 13*

Rebecca Groom te Velde

\* 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 grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we bring the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts. May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world, that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.**

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn of Consecration 719 – *Come, Labor On*

\* 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 – *Llangloffan*

Walter Pelz



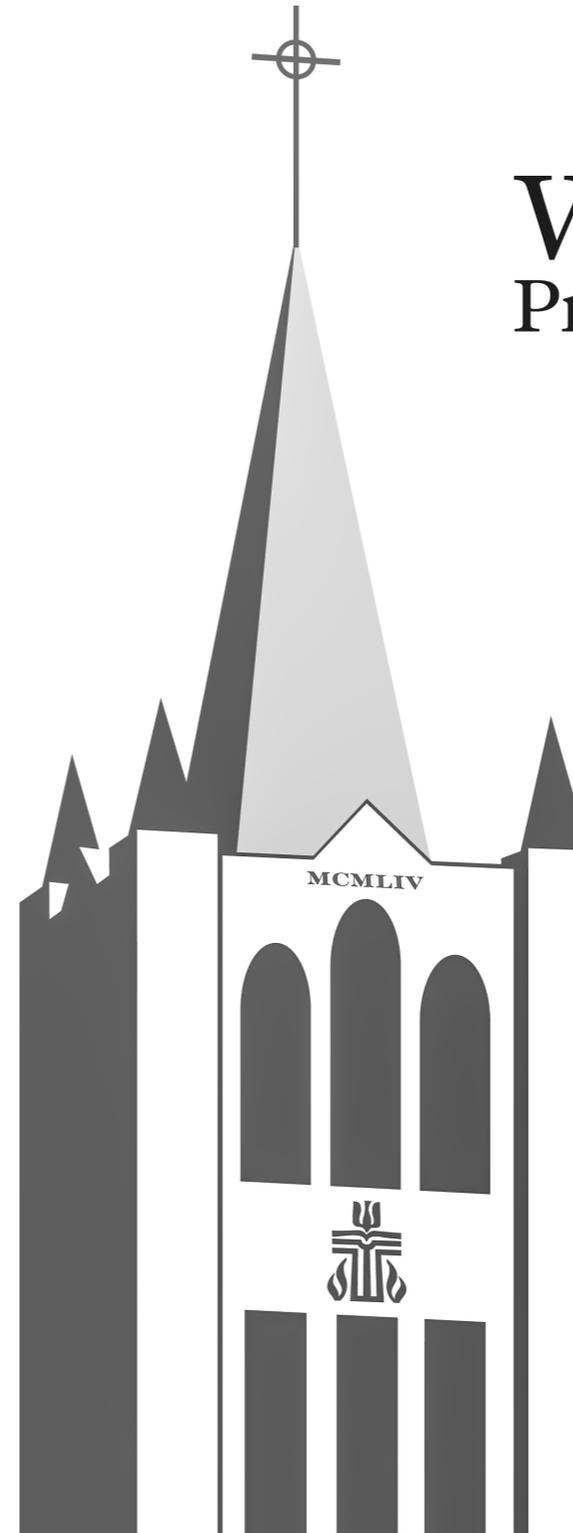
\* Please stand at the \* as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

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



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## 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*

*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 the family and friends of Butch Nobles, whose mother passed away on Monday.*

*For the family and friends of Chloe Cain, whose father passed away.*



**It is time to purchase Easter lilies. A signup sheet is on the narthex cabinet. The cost is \$15 per lily. March 29 is the deadline. Please leave money or a check in a brown envelope and put in the pink box on the narthex cabinet. This is a fundraiser for the youth and children's summer camps.**



## 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.

**New Beginnings** will meet tomorrow at noon. Connie Roberts will discuss the Easter section of *Messiah*. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you are coming.

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

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

**PW Prayer Ministry** will meet on 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 placed with the offering. Come join this group as they pray and write cards.

**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.

**PW will be hosting the Spring Gathering** on Saturday, March 21, starting at 9:30 a. m. Please contact Martha Ann Hogrefe at (601-307-0456) if you plan to attend.

There will be a **church luncheon on March 22**. All are welcome for this time of food and fellowship.



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:** Enchilada casserole, Spanish rice, salad, and dessert

**Activity**

**Chancel Choir** will meet at 6:30.

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 18, **Parkway Heights** will host Dr. Kristina Finch, a genre-bending harpist. To make a lunch reservation, please call 601-550-2466 on Monday.

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

### Upcoming Events

March 29 – Palm Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Meistersingers concert at 3 p.m.

April 2 - Maundy Thurs. at 6 p.m.

April 3 - Good Friday at noon

April 5 - Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.

Brunch/Egg Hunt at 9 a.m.

Worship/Communion 10:30 a.m.