

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *What Wondrous Love Is This*

Craig Phillips

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

Living God, we come to you today in humility and need. We pray for life for our wounded souls, for our ailing communities, for our troubled nation, and for our hurting world. Call us out of discouragement and despair to rise up in courage and love. Let your light shine upon our faces, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may live again as your people, holy and whole, singing praises and serving with joy through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Catherine Edmonson

Call to Worship (responsive)

As children of God, we dwell in the Spirit, and the Spirit dwells in us.

We are alive in the Spirit through the righteousness of God.

In humility and faith, we come to worship the One who gives us life, hope, and healing.

God has brought us to this moment and will guide us still.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 720 – *Jesus Calls Us*

* Call to Confession

Christ is nearer to us than we can imagine. Jesus' power is not just for a distant past and a far-off future. Jesus is here for us here and now. Because there is forgiveness with God, let us call upon the Lord.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of resurrection, we know the power of death. We have seen its works, we have felt its sting. We have been to the valley of despair, and felt like there was no chance for life. We do struggle to believe in your power to resurrect. We find ourselves doubting in your power to redeem our pain, and fashion something beautiful in this world. Forgive us. When we cry from the depths, however faint our call may be, we pray you hear our voice.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Thus says the Lord, You shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live. **We believe the good news! Thanks be to God.**

* 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

Miriam Crotwell

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 – Ezekiel 37:1-14

pew Bible pg. 704

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

Anthem – *The Fount of God's Love*

Benjamin Harlan

I know a fount where sins are washed away, I know a place where night is turned to day; Burdens are lifted, blind eyes made to see;
There's a wonderworking power born of love on Calvery's tree.

Say, are you weary? Are you heavy laden? Burdened with sorrow,
and weighted down with care? Are you in bondage? Do you want deliverance?

Come. Then, with me, there is refuge from despair. (Repeat)

Wondrous Deliverer! Sin forgiving Savior! Cleanser of hearts! Unfailing friend and guide!

No one has ever trusted unavailing, no one has claimed of his love and been denied.

Seeking for joy but only finding sorrow?

Come to the waters where grace and mercy flow. (Repeat)

Second Reading – John 11:1-45

pew Bible pg. 873

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

Sermon – *Unbind Him and Let Him Go*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 793 – *O Christ, the Healer*

* 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 . . . Raise your church from the dead, so that we may proclaim Christ, the resurrection and the life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . . Send forth your Holy Spirit to breathe upon this dying world and renew the face of the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . . Open the graves of the poor so that they may arise and stand to praise your holy name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . . In the villages and cities where we live, help us to embody the good news of Christ, who still lives and works among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . . Enter into the depths, O Lord, to draw out those who wait for you, who hope and trust in your word. 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 – *St. Christopher*

David M. Cherwien

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* 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 418 – *Softly and Tenderly*

* 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.**

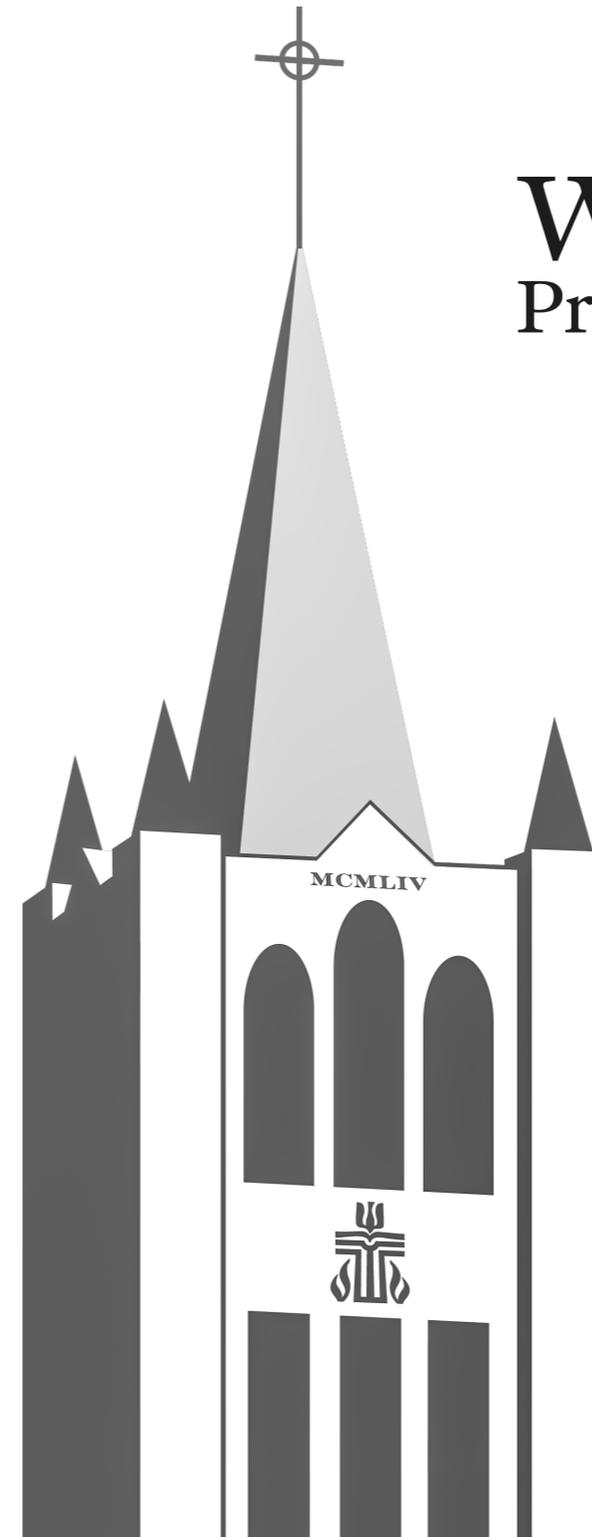
* Postlude – *If You Will Only Let God Guide You*

Anna Laura Page



* 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)

*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

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

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

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)

*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

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

August Simmons Boucher, son of Taylor and Matthew Boucher, was born March 17.

He weighed 6 lbs. and 10 oz.

Welcome to our Westminster family.



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. There will be a **church luncheon today** after worship.

All are welcome for this time of food and fellowship.

The **Youth** will not meet today.

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

No Wednesday night supper or activity.

Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30 on Wednesday.

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

The Youth are **collecting small individually wrapped candy and small trinkets** for the Easter Egg Hunt. There is a box by the church office for any donations.

The nominating committee would like for the congregation to have input into selecting deacons and elders. If you would like to suggest someone, please contact Jeff Haydel (jhaydel@gmail.com) or Connie Roberts (cdroberts4@gmail.com)

There is a **sign-up sheet** in the bulletin for the Easter brunch, please place in offering plate.

During the Lenten Season, at 11:00 lunch and at 12:10 a free concert series will be held every Wednesday at various churches in Hattiesburg.

On March 25, Main Street Baptist Church will have the Ecumenical Choir Concert.

To make a lunch reservation, please call 601-296-8000 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 3:00 p.m.

April 2 - Maundy Thurs. at 6:00 p.m.

April 3 - Good Friday at noon

April 5 - Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.

Brunch/Egg Hunt at 9:00 a.m.

Worship/Communion 10:30 a.m.



It is time to purchase Easter lilies. A sign up 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.

Scan to donate to WPC online.

