

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Fugue III*

Robert Schumann

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

God of living water, amid all that parches our souls and drains our hearts of joy, we pray for refreshment and renewal. Fill us with your Holy Spirit until our delight overflows into praise and we cannot contain ourselves, running to tell your good news, alive with the presence of Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Miriam Crotwell

Call to Worship (responsive)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**We have come to give thanks and to sing songs of praise!**

We are the people of God's pasture; we trust that God will bring us through the wilderness.

**We seek God's living water and praise God's holy name!**

\* Hymn of Praise 81 – *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

\* Call to Confession

God does not wait for us to be righteous, or pure, or perfect. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. We do not have to hide our sin from God, but can face it with Jesus, who heals us, teaches us, and leads us to new life.

\* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Jesus our Lord, once again, we come to you knowing our words have stung, our actions have harmed, and our indifference has let evil have its day. Our hearts yearn for you, our souls thirst for you, yet we do not imitate you in our lives. We scorn those who are different from us, and relish our own comfort. Once again, forgive us, O God. Give us your living water, that we might tell the world all you have done for us.**

(time for silent confession)

\* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

We know that God is with us even in our sufferings, for suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, **and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts. 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

Tommy Suttle

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 – Exodus 17:1-7

pew Bible pg. 56

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

Anthem – *An Offering*

Dan Forrest

O Christ, who spared not any cost, nor any grace withheld,  
But poured forth your redeeming blood in love unparalleled;  
What would you have me offer, Lord? What must I count as loss  
That I may taste the fellowship that brings me near the cross?

Why should I cling to gifts You give? Why grasp in foolish pride  
What You who gave Yourself for me now bid me lay aside?  
To know You is my highest gain, worth any sacrifice,  
A treasure worthy to possess at any earthly price.

Yet if behind my open hands, my heart shrinks from the cost,  
Teach me nothing offered You is ever truly lost.  
A hundred-fold reward awaits in one glimpse of Your face.  
My sacrifice forgotten in the riches of Your grace.

Second Reading – John 4:4-30, 39-42

pew Bible pg. 864

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

Sermon – *It Was About Noon*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving 440 – *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

\* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from The Confession of 1967, 9.21 (unison) –

**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.**

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 . . . Help us to worship you in spirit and truth, to proclaim the coming of the Savior, and share living water with the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . . Hold the mountains and the oceans in the hollow of your gentle hand; repair their brokenness; restore their glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . . Reconcile all the peoples of the earth—those who seem to share nothing in common. Help us to find our deeper unity in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . . Help us to feed our neighbors who are hungry, and give drink to those who are thirsty; through Christ, bread of life and living water. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . . Heal the divisions in our families, protect the victims of violence, and let children live in peace and safety. 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 – *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

Johann Sebastian Bach

\* 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 494 – *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

\* 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.**

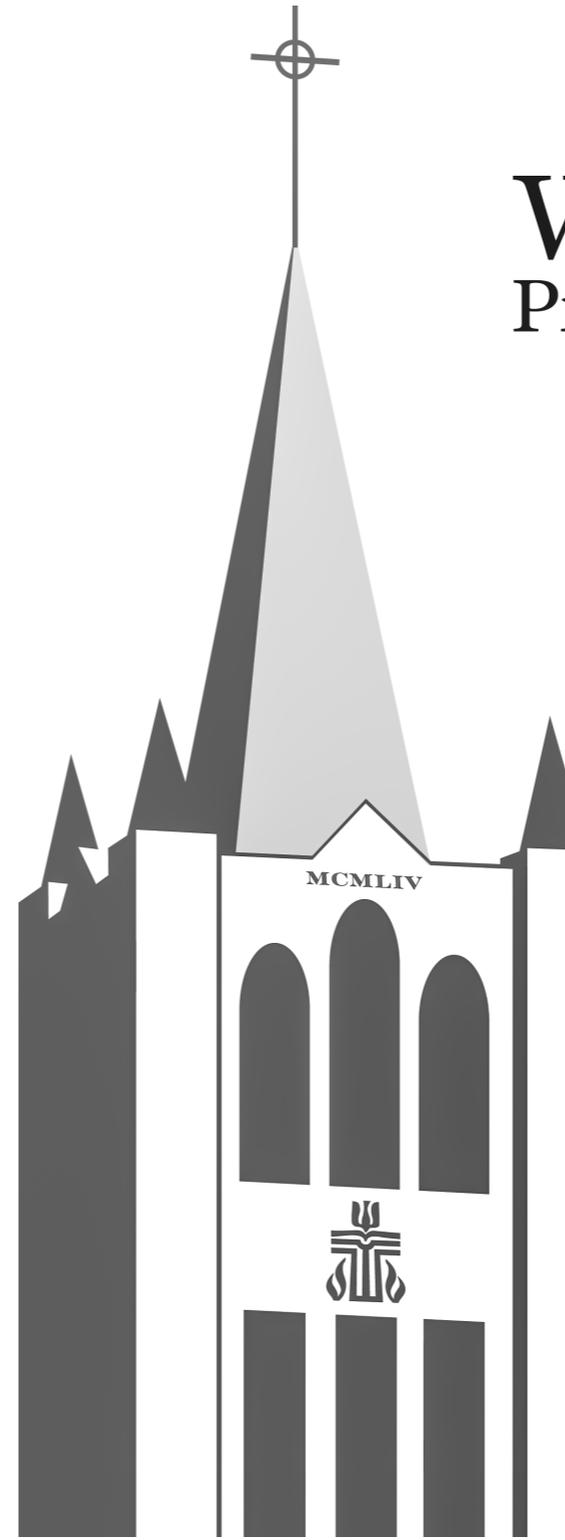
\* Postlude – *Miniature 12*

Flor Peeters



\* 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 Peggy McCarthy, friend of Iris Easterling*



## 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 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.

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

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

On Tuesday, **Circle 1** will meet at 9:30 a.m., and **Circle 2** will meet at 6:00 p.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.

**New Beginnings** will meet on Monday, March 16, at noon. Connie Roberts will discuss the Easter section of *Messiah*. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you are coming.



Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30 p.m. 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:** Tex-Mex Skillet Chicken and rice, black beans, 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 11, **Westminster** will host Dr. Bradley Hunter Welch. To make a lunch reservation, please call (601) 584-7574 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.



If you need something notarized, contact Martha in the office. No charge for members.

There is a box on the narthex cabinet labeled glasses for your **donated glasses**. These will be taken to the Lions Club.

The **furniture warehouse** is in need of donations. Call the office if you have items to donate, and we will schedule a pickup.

We are **collecting clothes** (women's and children's) for the domestic abuse shelter. Call Ann Johnson (601) 268-6632 to schedule a drop-off time.