

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done* Karen E. Black

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

Holy God, we sing your praises. You have brought us new life and freed us for love. Shake us free of anything that inhibits us from living fully as your new creation. Help us to live into your resurrection in relationships mended, wounds healed, communities restored, and wrongs made right, that we might reach for your hand and to witness together, "My Lord and my God!" Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Charles Hogrefe

Call to Worship (responsive)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**We rejoice, for we are children of God.**

We proclaim our faith: no power can overcome Christ's love, and as his body, we have received salvation.

**In love and joy, we praise the Lord!**

Let us worship God.

\* Hymn of Praise 246 – *Christ Is Alive!*

\* Call to Confession

God shows us the path of life, offering companionship along the way. Therefore, we trust in God, knowing that we can admit the ways we struggle to stay on that path.

\* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Embodied God, you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, imbuing us with the grace and patience that you have shown to us time and again. We experience your presence, but are quick to judge those who do not believe as we do. We look down on those who ask for proof, we scorn those who scoff at our faith. Forgive us and soften our hearts. Remind us of our own human doubts, that we might have compassion for all and freely share your grace.**

(time for silent confession)

\* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us. **Thanks be to God for such a hope. 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

Pam Love

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 1:3-9

pew Bible pg. 983

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

Anthem – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Gilbert M. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.  
See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did ever such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

Second Reading – John 20:19-31

pew Bible pg. 883

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

Sermon – *Those Who Have Not Seen*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Croftwell

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving 286 – *Breathe on Me*

\* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from The Confession of 1967, 9.26 (unison) –

**Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

Prayers of the People (responsive)

We offer our prayers through Christ, who lives and reigns forever, and prays for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for the church . . . By the gift of your Holy Spirit, let us be agents of reconciliation and signs of your grace in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for the earth . . . By the power of Christ's resurrection, make of this world a new creation: imperishable, undefiled, unfading. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for all nations . . . Send forth the breath of your Spirit: where there is war, breathe peace; where there is fear, breathe forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for this community . . . Teach us not to lock our doors in fear but to open our hearts to our neighbors, trusting in the peace of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for loved ones . . . Heal the wounds of body, mind, and spirit. Be present in the actions of those who believe and in the questions of those who doubt. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all power and glory, receive these prayers, and continue your mighty work among us, through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. **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

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 – *Come Away to the Skies*

James Biery

\* 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)

**Great God, to you we give our thanks; your steadfast love endures forever. With gratitude we bring our gifts to you. Bless us and our gifts, that our lives and our resources may be a source of healing and hope, of joy and justice in our world. Amen.**

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn of Consecration 233 – *The Day of Resurrection*

\* 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.**

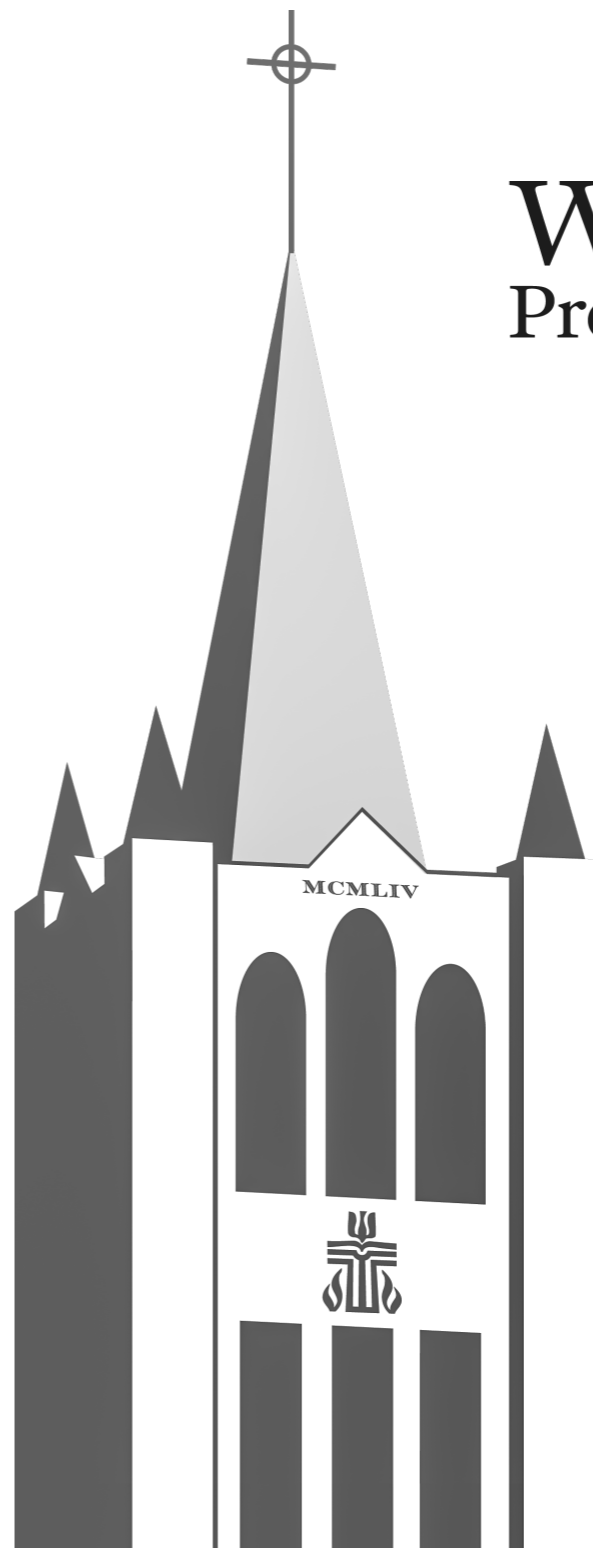
\* Postlude – *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Kristina Langlois



\* 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*

*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, Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health 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*

## PRAYERS OF COMFORT

*There will be a memorial service for Peggy and Bill Langnecker on April 17 at 11 a.m. at Poplarville First United Methodist Church.*



## 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 May/June Today devotionals** are on the narthex cabinet.

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 6:30 p.m.

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

**No Wednesday night** supper or activity.

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

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

**The Session** will meet today at 11:35 a.m., and the **Deacons** will meet on April 19.

**New Beginnings** will meet on Monday, April 20, at noon. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you plan to attend.

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.

### KICKBALL FUNDRAISER for the Youth

The deacons and elders will face off in a good old-fashioned kickball match on Sunday, April 26, at 4:30 p.m. Grab your lawn chairs and come enjoy grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.

**The youth Dessert Auction** will be on Wednesday, May 6. So start planning that special dessert or casserole.

**Youth Sunday** will be May 10.

### Breadbasket week is April 20-23

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Martha to volunteer.

601-584-7574

