

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* J. Wayne Kerr

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

Risen and Living God, in your endless love and grace, you have given us all we need. Open our weary eyes to moments when need meets resource and longing is satisfied in giving. Send us where you need us and fill us with your purpose, so that all people may know the wonder and joy of your redeeming presence, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Gwen Combs

Call to Worship (responsive)

Jesus the Christ has freed us from death and brought us into new life.

Through Christ, we have faith and hope in God.

In genuine, mutual love, let us worship with one heart and one voice.

In reverence and joy, we praise God's holy name!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 234 – *Come You Faithful*

* Call to Confession

As we continue our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are called to repent, remembering that the promise of Jesus Christ is for us, for our children, for our siblings, for all who are near and all who are far, for everyone called to God. In confidence, let us confess our sin.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Eternally patient God, we ask again and again, "What should we do?" And again and again, you tell us, "Repent and return to me." Yet we have not changed our ways. We fall into old habits, cling to our own ways, and take for granted the grace you have given us. Once again, we ask you for forgiveness. Show us the way forward and help us return, once again, to you.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Beloved, hear this good news: through Christ you have come to trust in God, who raised Christ from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. **We are born anew, through the living and enduring word of God. Alleluia! Praise to the risen Christ!**

* 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

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 – Acts 2:14a, 36-41

pew Bible pg. 885

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

Anthem – *It Is Well with My Soul*

arr. Eric Nelson

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrow like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, thought trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

He lives, oh, the bliss of that glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, oh my soul!

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, hast the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll

The trumpet shall resound, and the Lord shall descend; ever so it is well with my soul.

Second Reading – Luke 24:13-35

pew Bible pg. 860

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

Sermon – *We Had Hoped*

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 252 – *Day of Arising*

* 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 . . . Teach us again how to love one another. Let us be born anew this day through your living and enduring Word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for the earth . . . Bring about your new creation—eternal and imperishable—destined from the foundations of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for all nations . . . Save us from our own corruption; speak your life-giving promise to all your children, near and far. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for this community . . . Be present with us, in word and in action, as we seek to follow Christ's way, sharing the amazing joy of resurrection. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through Christ, we pray for loved ones . . . Hear the voices of those who cry for salvation, life, healing, and peace. Surround them with your goodness and grace. 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 – *O Sons and Daughters of the King*

Wilbur Held

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* 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 248 – *Christ Is Risen*

* 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.**

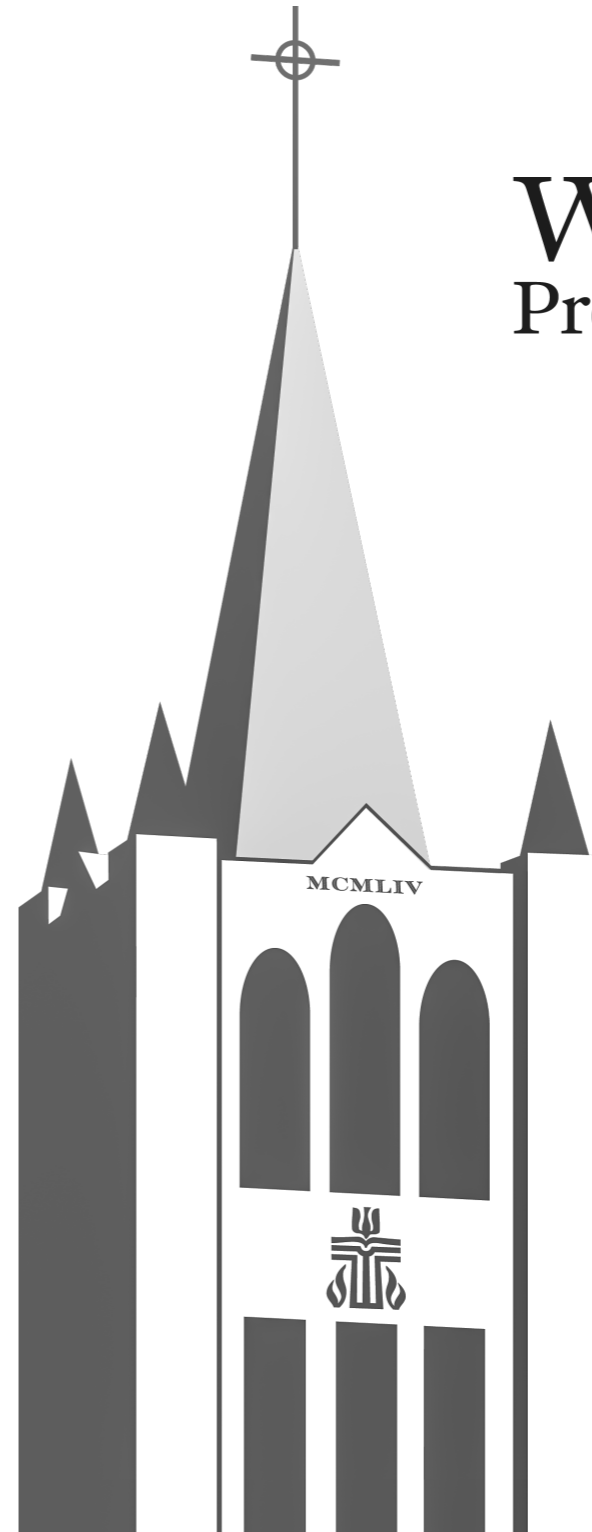
* Postlude – *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Robert J. Powell



* 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

**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

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

**J T Johnson – recovery of medical procedures*

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

**Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – lymph nodes 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



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 **Diaconate** will meet today at 11:35 a.m.

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

New Beginnings will meet tomorrow at noon. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you plan to attend.

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.

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.

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.

May 10 is Youth Sunday.

Please support our youth. They are working hard planning the service. This is a great time for us to see the talents of our youth.

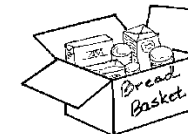
Dessert and Casserole Auction is

on Wednesday, May 6. The money raised goes to summer trips. A meal will be provided.



Breadbasket week is April 20-23

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Martha to volunteer. 601-584-7574



To donate to WPC online, scan the QR code and follow the instructions.