

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

God of holiness and truth, many voices claim to know what is right and good and clamor for our attention. We pray that you will silence in us any voice but yours until we are compelled to act with justice, to speak with clarity, kindness, and honesty, and to walk humbly in the way of Jesus Christ. Keep his example always before us and stir us out of complacency, making us like children again as we worship with astonished joy. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Randall Harris

Call to Worship (responsive)

We are the body of Christ, and we depend on God's grace.

We pray to God in times of distress, knowing that we are freed from sin and preserved from trouble.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

We will be glad in the Lord and shout for joy!

* Hymn of Praise 166 – *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

* Call to Confession

When we stay silent, when we do not acknowledge what we need to change, we waste away. Our guilt turns into shame that eats away at us like a poison. God calls us to repent and be healed; let us turn to God.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful One, we are so easily tempted. We turn away from your word so quickly. We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness. But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind. You are our true hope and salvation, our hiding place, our guide, our guardian. We confess our transgressions to you: forgive our sins. (time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice! God does not count our sins against us, but offers us a free gift of righteousness. **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

Alicia Westbrook

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 – Genesis 2:15-17

pew Bible pg. 2

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

Anthem – *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Dan Forrest

(words are in announcements)

Second Reading – Matthew 4:1-11

pew Bible pg. 785

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

Sermon – *He Was Tempted*

Tommy Suttle, *Director of Discipleship*

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 783 – *When We Are Tested*

* 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 . . . O Lord our God, let us worship you alone. Feed us with your Word, our daily bread, and lift us up on the wings of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . . In the garden of Eden you have made, help use to choose the paths of life, for the sake of your good creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . . Destroy the dominion of death: warfare, corruption, pollution, and hate; give life to all people through Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . . Feed those who are famished; humble the high and mighty; protect those who are on the edge of despair. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . . Hear the prayers of all who suffer—whether in silence or with loud cries—surround them with your saving grace. 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, Lover of My Soul*

Gerald Near

* 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 819 – *Be Still, My Soul*

* 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 – *Gregorian March*

Alexandre Guilmant



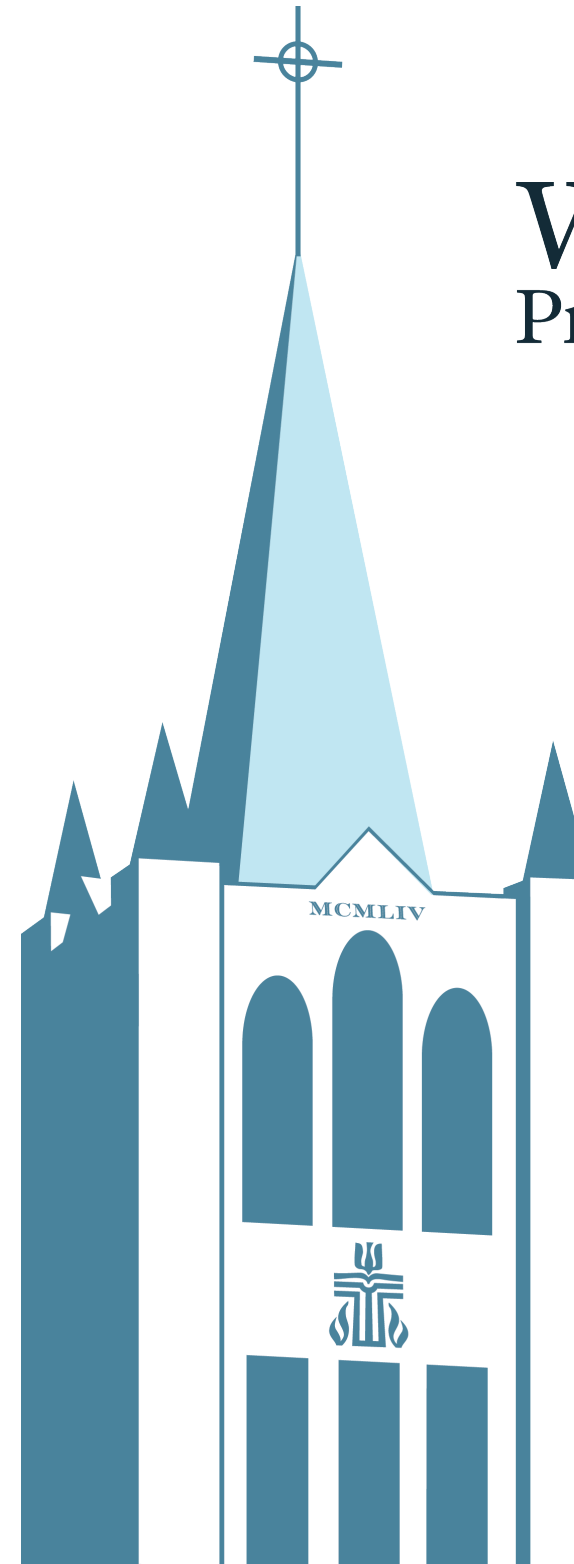
* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**.

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



115 N. 25th Ave. Hattiesburg, MS 39401
westminster@wpchattiesburg.com
facebook.com/westminsterhattiesburg1954
www.westminster-hattiesburg.com
(601) 584-7574

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

Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's

B.J. Lambert

Peggy McCarthy, friend of Iris Easterling – facing serious health issues

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



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.

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

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.

Growing Spiritually Comm. will meet next Sunday following worship.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

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: Mae's lasagna, green beans, salad, rolls and dessert

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. Trinity Episcopal Church will host the Deep South Ringers on February 25. Deep South Ringers is an auditioned, community handbell choir based in Hattiesburg. To make a lunch reservation, please call 601-544-5551. For additional information, brochures are available on the narthex cabinet.

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



Articles for the March Newsletter are due to Wes by noon Thursday, Feb. 26.
(wes@breadproject.com)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is by Dan Forrest

*The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never,
I nothing lack if I am His and He is mine forever.*

*Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
Perverse and foolish oft I strayed
But yet in love He sought me, and on His shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing brought me.*

*My Shepherd is, my Shepherd is the King of love:
And so, through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd may I sing Thy praise.*

*Within Thy house forever. Within Thy house, within Thy house,
In Thy house forever, Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever.*

Breadbasket week is Feb. 23-26

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

