

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Processional Rondeau*

David Lasky

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

Almighty God, come down to us today as you once did and stand with us in this level place. Gather again people from all regions to you and welcome them. Use your power to heal and to pronounce blessings on the troubled. Unmask our idols and teach us again the way of love as revealed in Jesus Christ. It is in his name that we pray. Amen

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Cala Raborn

Call to Worship (responsive)

This is the hope that we proclaim:

That Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

And because he lives, we also shall live.

Thanks be to God!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 234 – *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

* Call to Confession

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so, in Christ, God speaks to us: You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **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

Althea Jerome

Prayer for Illumination

Light of the world, your good news is for all people. In this day's reading and proclamation, attune our ears to hear your life-giving Word. Open our hearts to receive your blessing, that we may bear your light in our lives, giving witness to your glory and strength. Amen.

First Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

pew Bible pg. 935

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *Jesu, The Very Thought of Thee*

Eric H. Thiman

Jesu, the very thought of Thee with sweetness fills my breast:

But sweeter far Thy face to see and in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the memory find a sweeter sound,

Then Thy blest Name, O Saviour of mankind.

Jesu, our only joy be Thou, as Thou our prize wilt be: Jesu, be thou our glory now,

And through eternity, and through eternity. Amen.

Second Reading – Luke 6:17-26

pew Bible pg. 838

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *Blessed are You. Woe to You.*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 815 – *Give to the Winds Thy Fears*

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Traditional) (unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Joining our hearts and minds in prayer, let us call on the name of the Lord, saying: O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for the church . . . Help us to be a people who welcome others, just as Jesus did. Teach us to use our power to bring healing and blessings to others. Teach us also to see and reject our own idols so that we might better follow the risen Lord. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for the world . . . We remember people living in poverty and hunger in all corners of the earth. We ask that you would move quickly to rescue them and that you would use us to help deliver your holy, lifesaving bread. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for this community . . . Wherever there is hate or exclusion, denigrating habits or dehumanizing words among us, put an end to such things. Teach us to see all people as brothers and sisters, children of your own making, who have been made in your holy image. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for loved ones . . . We think of those among us who weep. We pray that your presence would draw near to them and that your compassion would cover them. Tend to the wounds of the heart and turn their darkness into the morning light of Easter's hope. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

Mighty God, strengthen your people so that we may live in the world as those you have chosen and called; through Jesus Christ our 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

God has prepared an abundant feast of grace and blessing for us. Let us share these good gifts with the world.

Offertory – *Pastorale*

Léon Boëllmann

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy God, you create us and redeem us; you call us by name and we are precious in your sight. This good news overwhelms us with joy. With gratitude we give you all that we have and all that we are. May these gifts be expressions of your great delight for your people in all the places of the earth. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 772 – *Live into Hope*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

May the blessing of the Lord our God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **Alleluia!**

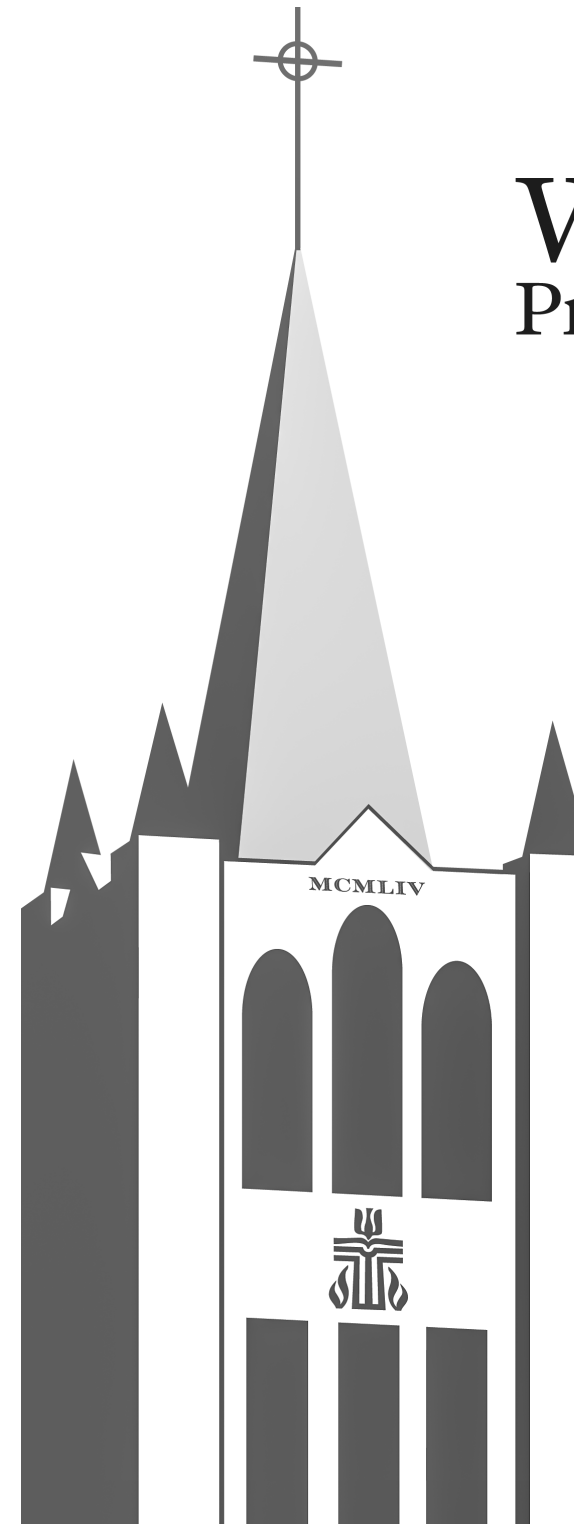
In the name of Jesus, bring good news to the poor. **Amen.**

* Postlude – *Allegro*

Léon Boëllmann



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**. Today's liturgy is from *Call to Worship Lectionary Aids for 2015-2016, Year C*.



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)

Terri Banks, friend of Pam Love – at home with 24-hour care

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Dave Beveridge, friend of Alice Crotwell – stomach cancer

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Glenda Brown – prayers for health

Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues

Kim Davis, Dan Davis's sister-in-law – battling cancer

Vida Davis, sister of Ruthie Davis – dementia

Jessica Dubing, daughter of a friend of Ruthie Davis – paralyzed from motorcycle accident

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance

**Hudson Elliott, grandson of friends of the Reidenbachs—NICU at UMMC with undiagnosed health concerns*

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Brigitte Glowiak, Carolyn McLarnan's family – breast cancer

Arlandra Harvey, former choir member – waiting for a kidney transplant

**Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister—in rehab for addiction*

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

Collier Knutson, grandson of a friend of Gwen Combs – waiting on heart transplant

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

B.J. Lambert – strength and endurance

Margaret Lochhead's coach's niece – diagnosed with malignant brain tumor

Laura Mills, Ann Johnson's friend – cancer diagnosis

Betty Mitchell – recovery from knee surgery

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues

Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – health issues

**Stephanie Cummings Shaver, daughter of Kathryn and Robert Cummings – stem cell transplant*

Gibson Smith, friend of Charles Brown – cancer

Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues

**Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – FGH with flu and pneumonia*

Elizabeth Robinson, Betty & Bill Mitchell's daughter – chemo and radiation treatment

Isobel Treen, Carolyn McLarnan's cousin – heart issues

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For family and friends of Charlie Ramp, Steve Ramp's son



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.

After worship, **the deacons** will meet in the Generation room and **the Session** will meet in the conference room.

The Youth will meet today at 4:00 p.m. for a service project. The children will meet at 5 p.m. A meal will be provided.

New Beginnings will meet tomorrow at noon. Catherine Edmonson will share her recent experiences in Japan. Make plans to come and let Tommy or Martha know. Tommy will be preparing a special meal for you to enjoy.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Circle 3—today at 5:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Bible Study—Tues. at 11:00 a.m.

Men of the Church—Thurs. at 7:00 a.m. at Loblolly

Katie is needing volunteers

to provide meals for the youth and children on Feb. 23 and March 9. Please see Katie to sign up.



Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30. 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: Adults — Mae's lasagna, green beans, salad, French bread and dessert

Activities at 6 — The youth and children will retire upstairs, and Christopher will lead the adults in a book study by J. Ellsworth Kalas titled *A Faith of Her Own: Women of the Old Testament*.

Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30 p.m.

The family of Jerry Waltman would like to express their gratitude to the members of Westminster. Until you experience it firsthand, it is hard to fully appreciate how much the support of the church community means at a time of grief.

Thank you

To all the people who enjoyed the delicious soup and dessert last Sunday and donated. There was \$924.49 donated for the Domestic Abuse Family Shelter of Hattiesburg.