



# 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 North 25th Avenue  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
(601) 584-7574

[westminster-hattiesburg.com](http://westminster-hattiesburg.com)

Nov. 15, 2020  
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE “Trumpet Tune in C Major” by David N. Johnson

Mrs. Kay Guiles

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, the gift of your Son is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astound us! Inspire us to teach your commandments and share your gospel, that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

CHIMING

WELCOME

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Recognition of Jeanne Herring and Ann Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP (**responsive**)

Keep silence in God’s presence; the day of the Lord is at hand!

**Let us not fall asleep, but live as children of light.**

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast.

**We watch and wait in faith, hope, and love.**

Hymn #716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

vs. 1 *God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store,  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.*

vs. 2 *Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.*

vs. 3 *Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You adorn us with the armor of light, but we hide ourselves in darkness. You trust us with the message of grace, but we bury that treasure in fear. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your**

**fold and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne.**

(time for silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, we long for your beautiful Word, your living Word who shows us the way. In Scripture and sermon, in silence and song, reveal to us your desires and grant us steadfastness of heart, that we may walk in your truth. Amen.

FIRST READING—Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING—Matthew 25:14-30

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

Then he went away.

The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON—“Enter into Joy”

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

ANTHEM—“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Brandon Hayes, soloist

*I’m gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!*

*I’m gonna work so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!*

*I’m gonna pray so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!*

*I’m gonna sing so God can use me anywhere Lord, anytime!*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

(time for silence)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**God of unending gifts, we praise you for your abundant goodness. As you are generous, we want to be generous too. May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world, so that all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. Amen.**

CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE “Gregorian March” by Alexandre Guilmant

*Dismissal by Rows – follow instructions of ushers*

*\*Offerings may be placed in the plates that are in the Narthex as you depart.*

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

*Telina Birch, friend of Nancy Johnson – covets prayers for endurance and strength*  
*Dean Cromartie – diagnosed with ALS*  
*Elizabeth Curlee, sister of Iris Easterling – advanced terminal pancreatic cancer*  
*Misty Dauphinee, friend of Nancy Johnson – preeclampsia, 33 weeks pregnant*  
*Ruthie Davis*  
*Sam Dossett – hospice care*  
*Fluffy Fair*  
*Jeanette Fulmer, friend of the Forsyths – diagnosed with cancer*  
*Craig Garner – recovery from hand surgery, chemo*  
*Wendy Graham, Jan Bozeman’s sister – continued prayers*  
*Mari Griffin, Brandon Hayes’ mother – ovarian cancer*  
*Mary Halliwell, friend of Mary and Dean Cromartie – pancreatic cancer*  
*Ben Jones, close friend and band mate of Wes Brooks – battling colon and lung cancer*  
*Geraldine Jones – special prayers for her family*  
*B.J. Lambert – prayers for endurance and strength*  
*Stephanie Liddell, Geri Jones’ daughter – health issues*  
*Jim Lundy, Sinclair Lundy’s brother – Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s*  
*JoAnn Johnson, JT Johnson’s sister-in-law – intestinal infection*  
*Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel’s father – dementia*  
*Harrison McClain, student at PCS – rehab at home, prayers for endurance and strength*  
*Sandy Nicholas – recovering at home*  
*Steve and Ellen Ramp*  
*James Reid, Carolyn McLarnan’s brother – frontotemporal dementia motor neuron disease and ALS*  
*Julie Reid, Carolyn McLarnan’s niece – starting more aggressive chemo*  
*Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan’s sister-in-law – starting chemo*  
*Bones Roane, JT Johnson’s brother’s partner – spine cancer*  
*Lori Nolen Rockett, cousin of Nancy Johnson – hormone treatment for breast cancer*  
*Teresa Seals, friend of Nancy Johnson – stage 2 breast cancer*  
*Lavon Smith*  
*Allen Stanton, friend of Ben Yelverton – undergoing cancer treatment at MD Anderson, asking for endurance and strength*  
*Pam Thomas, friend of Sinclair Lundy – starting chemo for chronic lymphocytic leukemia*  
*Glenda Vaughn, Ruthie Davis’ niece – health issues*  
*Jack Watts, friend of Jan Bozeman – Alzheimer’s*  
*Shirley Wilbanks, Betty Mitchell’s cousin – stage 4 ovarian cancer*  
*Mike Zubajlo, Glenda Miller’s son-in-law – undergoing chemotherapy, prayers for endurance and strength*

## PRAYERS OF COMFORT

*For the family and friends of David Owens*

*PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE WITH COVID-19 AND THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS*

*PRAYERS FOR OUR LEADERS*

*PRAYERS FOR OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ARMED FORCES*

All hymns are taken from *Glory to God The Presbyterian Hymnal*. All scripture citations are from the *New Revised Standard Version*. Portions of the liturgy are from the *Book of Common Worship* and *Call to Worship* (2014 & 2017).