

A stylized graphic of a church steeple on the left side of the page. It features a tall, light blue spire with a cross on top, and a white base with three arched windows and a central emblem. The base is flanked by two smaller, dark blue spires.

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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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.

Please make note of the following:

- The May/June Today devotionals are on the narthex cabinet.
- Growing Spiritually will meet today after worship.
- Brown Bag Bible Study meets Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. via ZOOM and in person in the parlor. Contact the office for ZOOM information.
- All Men of the Church are invited to meet Thursday, May 6, at 6:30 a.m. in Montague Hall for breakfast and fellowship.
- Choir practice has begun. Please join Michael in the sanctuary each Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.
- PW Coordinating Team meets Tuesday, May 4, at 9:30 a.m. at the church.
- Deacon meeting Sunday, May 9, at 11:35 a.m. The Session will meet Sunday, May 16, at 11:35 a.m.
- New Beginnings monthly luncheon is Monday, May 17, at noon in Montague Hall. Everyone is invited to attend, so R.S.V.P.'s are essential. Please contact Tommy Suttle at tommy@wpchattiesburg.com.
- It's time to stir up your favorite recipes for the Dessert & Casserole Auction on Wednesday, May 19, following dinner.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

May 2, 2021

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Praise the Lord with the Sound of the Trumpet*

Wagner

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

God of the glorious garden, giver of grace, apart from your Word we can do nothing. Cultivate in us a sense of connection in Christ. Prune our excess and help us to grow in faith so that we may bear good fruit for the world; through Jesus Christ, the true vine. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Althea Jerome

Call to Worship – (*responsive*)

Christ Jesus is the true vine

and we are the branches.

God is love; abide in God,

and God will abide in you.

Let us worship God.

Hymn of Praise 664 – *Morning Has Broken*

Call to Confession

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession – (*unison*)

God of glory, we confess that we have not sought your face. We demand signs and desire wisdom; yet the cross of Christ is all we need. We boast about our strengths; yet the weakness of Christ has saved us.

Forgive us; give us grace. Teach us what is truly wise and good and blessed: to show the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

(time for silent confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness (*responsive*)

Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 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

Alicia Westbrook

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, send us your Spirit to guide us into the truth, so that we may know and trust the good news of the gospel, and look with hope and joy for the life of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – 1 John 4:7-21

pew Bible pg. 991

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *Be Still and Know*

Steven Curtis Chapman

Be still and know that He is God. Be still and know that He is holy.
Be still O restless soul of mine, bow before the Prince of Peace,
Let the noise and clamor cease.
Be still and know that He is God. Be still and know that He is faithful.
Consider all that He has done, stand in awe and be amazed.
And know that He will never change.
Be still and know that He is God.
Be still, be speechless. Be still and know that He is God.
Be still and know that He is our Father. Come, rest your head upon His breast,
Listen to the rhythm of his unfailing heart of love; beating for His little ones,
Calling each of us to come. Be still, be still, be still.

Second Reading – John 15:1-8

pew Bible pg. 878

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

Sermon – *I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

Communion Hymn 518 – *Your Only Son*

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 the gifts of our lives.

Offertory – *Lithuanian Easter Carol*

Alice Jordan

The Eucharist

The Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

The Words of Institution

The Communion

Prayer After Communion (*unison*)

Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. We have recalled your mighty acts in holy history. We have seen your power in sending light to conquer darkness, water to give us life; and the bread of heaven to nourish us in love. Send us with salvation and joy to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Consecration 157 – *I Danced in the Morning*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude – *Prelude in Classic Style*

Gordon Young



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Telina Birch, friend of Nancy Johnson – covets prayers for endurance and strength
JoAnn Clarke, sister of Glenda Brown – at home recuperating
Katie Cole, granddaughter-in-law of Glenda Miller – continuing chemo
Dr. Tim Cole, friend of Mary Cromartie – pancreatic cancer
Deena Crawford, B.J. Lambert's daughter – prayers for health and endurance
Sam Dossett – hospice care
Fluffy Fair
Jeanette Fulmer, friend of the Forsyths – diagnosed with cancer
Wendy Graham, Jan Bozeman's sister – continued prayers
Mary Halliwell, friend of Mary Cromartie – pancreatic cancer
Yennefer Herrera, Alejandro Herrera's daughter
Wil Howie, Founder of Living Waters for the World – reconstructive surgery & radiation
Gloria MacDonald, Robert MacDowell's daughter – chemo for breast cancer
Joe Pack's friend named JJ – recovering from stroke
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 – Lewy Body
Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – dementia
Bernice McIntosh, Mac Forsyth's aunt – declining health
Sandy Nicholas – recovering at home
Becky Nobles, Glenn Nobles' sister-in-law – recurring cancer
Steve Ramp
Julie Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's niece – non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – starting chemo
Bones Roane, JT Johnson's brother's partner – effective transplant
Lori Nolen Rockett, cousin of Nancy Johnson – awaiting test results
Mimi Mitchell Roy, Bill Mitchell's sister – grave health issues
Jeannette Russell, Janet Burke's twin sister – serious health issues
Teressa Seals, friend of Nancy Johnson – reconstructive surgery
Allen Stanton, friend of Ben Yelverton – back home in Clinton, receiving treatment at UMMC
Kathy Vail, organist at Main Street Methodist and Meistersingers – breast cancer
Glenda Vaughn, Ruthie Davis' niece – health issues
Gregory Vaughn, Ruthie Davis' nephew – prayers for healing
John Watkins, Rose Marie Yore's brother – prayers for healing
Jack Watts, friend of Jan Bozeman – under hospice care
Mike Zubajlo, Glenda Miller's son-in-law – prayers for success in trial at NIH

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For the family and friends of Ellen Ramp