# Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
*First Sunday in Lent*
February 26, 2023
11:00 a.m.

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*God, you know our hearts.*
*You have knitted our inmost being and you know our deepest desires, fears and worries. Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of your presence in our lives.*
*Save us from our own temptations,*
*so that we may more freely follow you. Amen*

**THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE PRELUDE**
Christus der ist mein Leben (Christ who is mt life) Johann Pachelbel

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**

Leader: Our Lenten sojourn has begun, a journey that leads us from ashes to Easter.
**People:** **We will travel this road without fear. We will follow where God leads.**

Leader: Today we travel into the wilderness. Today we leave ordinary comforts behind.
**People:** **Here we will discover who we are; Here we will discover whose we are.**

Leader: Here in wilderness our deepest hungers are fed. Here we discover our true home.
**People:** **Today we remember the source of our life. Today we feast not on bread but on love.**

**All:** **Let us worship the living God!**

***HYMN** "Who will You Listen To?"
Text: Anna Strickland, 2022
Music: Meyer Lyon, 1770
***LEONI***

The voices from the past
That echo through our minds
Like noisy ghosts haunt and harass With words unkind
Who will we listen to? Lies that bind and abase?
Or God who counters words untrue With words of grace?

Society demands
We always strive for more
Accumulating wealth and land And leave the poor
Who will we listen to? The tempter's jealousy?
Or God's provision and pursuit Of equity?

A rushing flood of hate
In news we often see
Conceals God's kingdom in a great Cacophony
Who will we listen to? The chaos all around?
Or God's dream of a world made new Where love abounds?

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Donna Eagle Joslin**

**Holy One, as we set out on the path before us at the start of this Lenten season, we confess that we are people of impatient hungers. We want to be filled with all good things, now. We are people who seek power and authority. We want to be in control, not to be controlled. We are people whose individual safety is of highest concern. We want to live lives free of risk and responsibility. Grant us courage to resist these temptations to be less than we can be. Through Christ we pray *(silent prayer . . .)***

*** WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**
Family of faith,
When a baby is learning to walk, the parents do not criticize the baby for falling. Instead, they celebrate every wobbly step. They applaud every hesitant stand. They whoop and holler when their child lands in their arms.

Surely the same must be true of God. Although we often lose our way and we often choose the wrong thing, I imagine God whoops and hollers with every step in God's direction.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
No matter how many times we fall, no matter how many times we choose the wrong path, God is waiting for us at the end with open arms. We are forgiven. We are invited. We belong.

**All: Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL**
*All those children and youth who are pres ent are invited to come forward at this time.*

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS** Psalm 32

**A READING FROM THE GOSPELS** Matthew 4:1-11

**THE SERMON** **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
*"Perfect Timing"*

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**
Charlotte Lillian-Marie Corbin

***BAPTISMAL HYMN 484** "Out of Deep, Unordered water "
Text: Fred Kaan, 1965
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1897
***RUSTINGTON***

***AFFIRMATION: A Lenten Litany**

Leader: Jesus invites us to follow him into the wilderness, and to fast from our dependence on ordinary things.
**All:** **Let us walk his way with trust.**

Leader: Jesus points us to a way of self-giving, where power and status are overturned.
**All:** **Let us walk his way with humility.**

Leader: Jesus beckons us to a way of faithful risk, letting go of our security and trusting in God.
**All:** **Let us walk his way with courage.**

Leader: Jesus invites us to a way of celebration, meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.
**All:** **Let us walk his way with joy.**

Leader: Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross, where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.
**All:** **Let us walk his way with faith.**

Leader: Jesus models for us the way that makes for peace, peace for ourselves and peace for the world.
**All:** **Let us walk in his way with love.**

**THE PASTORAL PRAYER**

***HYMN 775** "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"
Text and Music: African American Spiritual
***WALK WITH ME***

***THE CHARGE**

**THE BENEDICTION** (Sung by the choir)

The Grace by Richard Shepherd

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
*And the love of God,*
*And the fellowship of the holy Spirit*
*Be with us all evermore. Amen.*

During this time of Lent, we ask that you leave the sanctuary in meditative silence following the service.

*Please stand as you are able

**Liturgist:** Donna Eagle Joslin
**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Jackie Wintle, Don & Vicki Collins
**Elder of the Day:** Sharon Lytle

**CHURCH STAFF**
Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Frank W. Boles, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

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**WELCOME VISITORS!** If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us on this joyous day.

**PRAYERS GO OUT FOR**: Lee Dugger and family; Walt Roberts, Fran & Burnace's son; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Bob & Janice Kesterson, Mark Meriwether's aunt and uncle; Jackie Wintle's cousin, Richard Taylor and her niece, Jessica Brown; Kip Smith, Tacci's father; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Fred Porter & Fred Harvey, the Griswold's brothers-in-law; Bartley and Phyllis Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother and sister in law; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison.

**OFFERING** We will not receive a formal offering during our service however, there are offering plates as you enter the sanctuary, or you may mail your offering to: Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778, or make donations directly and securely on our website by going to, warrenwilsonchurch.org

**FINISHING STRONG!** Our Lenten educational series focused on preparing for life's final stages begins today. Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship for a discussion of the legal documents that are wise to have in place, led by attorney Mike Begley. A light lunch will be provided.

**SPIRITUALITY RETREAT** The Presbytery of Western NC is once again offering the yearly Lenten Spirituality Retreat on March 24-25. This year it will be held at William Black Lodge in Montreat. It will be led by Donna Chase, Director of Spiritual Formation at 1st Presbyterian of Greensboro. Each day allows for learning, fellowship and prayer so that you return home relaxed and rejuvenated. Register by March 3. Contact Sandy Brauer (828-803-4718) for questions or help getting registered.

**LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING!** As part of our observance and celebration of African American History Month, we will be including songs and hymns and spirituals from the African American tradition in our services throughout February.

**COVER IMAGE** *Briton Rivière, The Temptation in the Wilderness, 1898*

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## February 26, 2023

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

*At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole -- and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!*