Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024
11:00 a.m.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 19:1-4 **Carla Greenfield**

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

Drawn by the mercy of a love made manifest,
let us worship the living God.

***HYMN 22** "God of the Sparrow"
ROEDER

***CONFESSION (Unison)** **Margaret LaMotte Torrence**

Holy One,
We confess that we are half-hearted followers
of your full-hearted son.

In your persistent Word,
in our buried longing for life,
in each wild and broken place—
wash us clean,
remind us whose we are,
and light the path before us.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

…In the name of Jesus, God's love incarnate, let us declare:

Our stories are known; our sins are forgiven;
our work has just begun.

HYMN 437 "You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!"
WAYFARING STRANGER

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL
Children and youth are invited to come forward.

FIRST READING Genesis 9:8-17

THE ANTHEM Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Arr. Richard Shepard

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us gracious Lord,
To die to self and chiefly live by your most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

SECOND READING Mark 1:9-15

SERMON **Margaret LaMotte Torrence**
The Beloved in the Wilderness

***HYMN** Wade in the Water

Refrain
(All sing twice after each verse; First time gently; Second triumphantly)
Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water, God's a-gonna trouble the water.

Call (Choir) **Response (All)**
See that host all dressed in white. **God's a-gonna trouble the water.**
The leader looks like the Israelite, **God's a-gonna trouble the water.**

Refrain (All)

See that band all dressed in red, **God's a-gonna trouble the water.**
Looks like the ban that Moses led, **God's a-gonna trouble the water.**

Refrain (All)

Look over yonder, what do I see? **God's a-gonna trouble the water.**
The Holy Ghost a-coming on me, **God's a-gonna trouble the water.**

Refrain (All)

If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.

Refrain (All)

***AFFIRMATION (Unison)** A Declaration of Faith, PCUS, 1977

Jesus was God in the flesh.
Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers
that enslaved and degraded people,
yet he made no use of power to protect himself.
He healed those who were sick in body and mind,
yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself.
He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him
above loyalty to family and country,
yet he lived among them as a servant.
Jesus taught with authority,
challenging many time-honored customs and ideas,
yet he submitted to humiliation and death
without a word on his own behalf.
He forgave sinners,
yet he was counted among sinners.

We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority.
He did what only God can do.
We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness.

When he lived as a servant
and went humbly to his death
the greatness that belongs only to God was manifest.
In both his majesty and lowliness
Jesus is the eternal Son of God,
God himself with us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 65** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah "
CWM RHONDDA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF
Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Coffee Hour Hosts: Janice Collins
Liturgist: Carla Greenfield
Elder of the Day: Sally Broughton

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WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us. Please fill out a visitor information card, located on the right as you enter the chapel.

PRAYERS GO OUT FOR: Winn Legerton and family, on Fitz's death; Martha Dugger; Beth Newman; Darrell Spencer: Vernon Daugherty, Sr., Derron's father: Susan Runholt, Steve's sister; Salyna Morgan; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Bartley Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother; Jackie Wintle's sister, Judy Reynolds; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; 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.

WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES Please make sure to pick up a Weekly Lenten Service schedule from the table in the Narthex. In addition to the schedule, it contains information on where donations will be going this year.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE A service giving thanks to God for the life of Fitz Legerton will be held in our chapel on Saturday, March 9 at 2:00 PM. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.
In life and death, we belong to God.

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THANK YOU WWPC! We outdid our previous best! On Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, we collected 280 food items for MANNA Food bank, and $1,695 in monetary donations for Bounty and Soul. This is the highest amount collected in the 15 years we've participated in this event. Our monetary donations will go to Bounty and Soul early next week, and food donations have already been taken to MANNA. If you were unable to participate last week, a soup pot remains in the narthex for additional monetary donations to Bounty and Soul.

MEMBERSHIP However you found us, we are glad you are here. If you are interested in joining this loving community, you may contact Margaret at 828-298-9092, or MLTorrence@warren-wilson.edu .

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!

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Beloved Is Where We Begin

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their curious
insistence
whisper our name:

Beloved.
Beloved.
Beloved.

Jan Richardson