

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



April 21, 2024 4th Sunday in Easter

It is for all
'literalists of the imagination,'
poets or not,
that miracle
is possible,
possible and essential.
Are some intricate minds
nourished
on concept,
as epiphytes flourish
high in the canopy?
Can they
subsist on the light,
on the half
of metaphor that's not
grounded in dust, grit,
heavy
carnal clay?
Do signs contain and utter,
for them
all the reality
that they need? Resurrection, for them,
an internal power, but not
a matter of flesh?

For the others,
of whom I am one,
miracles (ultimate need, bread
of life) are miracles just because
people so tuned
to the humdrum laws:
gravity, mortality—
can't open
to symbol's power
unless convinced of its ground,
its roots
in bone and blood.
We must feel
the pulse in the wound
to believe
that 'with God
all things
are possible,'
taste
bread at Emmaus
that warm hands
broke and blessed.

Denise Levertov

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive)

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Love never ceasing—
Creativity unfolding the universe—
Hope unquenchable—
Reconciliation, no matter the cost—

These things are of God.

**As a people called to worship
by the longing of our creator,
we will sing our praise.**

***HYMN 268**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”
DIADEMATA

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

3 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

4 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

***CONFESSION**

**Holy One,
We wear so many masks,
and hold each other at a distance,
so as not to see each other's pain.
We pretend there is no need.**

**But even risen,
Jesus carried his wounds.
He still offered his flesh
for the sake of our healing.**

**Teach us to risk such vulnerability—
make glory shine
from every broken place.**

Silent prayer

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

...in the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
let us declare:

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

***RESPONSE (Hymn 582)**

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children and youth are invited to come forward.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-18

ANTHEM

“Keep Thy Lambs”

Robert J. Powell

*Loving Shepherd of Thy sheep, Keep Thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can Thy Power withstand, None can take Thy Hand.*

*Loving Shepherd, ever near, Teach Thy Lamb Thy voice to hear,
Suffer not my steps to stray From the straight and narrow way.*

*Where Thou leadest I would go, Walking in Thy steps below,
Till before my Father's throne I shall know as I am known.*

SECOND READING

John 20:24-28

SERMON

“Confessing Thomas”

Rev. Brian Combs

*HYMN 302

“When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace”
O WALY WALY

1 When hands reach out and fingers trace
the beauty of a loved one's face,
we thank you, God, that love relies
on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.

2 When fingers spell and signs express
our prayer and praise and thankfulness,
we thank you, God, that hands can sing;
you bless the silent songs we bring.

3 When broken bodies will not mend,
we thank you, God, for Christ our friend.
In him, our healing can begin:
he welcomes all the wounded in.

4 And when the ways we learn and grow
are not the ways that others know,
we thank you, God, that we have learned
your love's a gift, and never earned.

5 Your Spirit gives us differing ways
to serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be
your able, strong community.

*AFFIRMATION (Unison)

A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God,
the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 797**

“We Cannot Measure How You Heal”
YE BANKS AND BRAES

1 We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer’s prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

2 The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

3 So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

Cover image as shared on <https://donteatalone.com/faith/honest-thomas>
Call to Worship adapted from <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>

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 host: Vicki Collins
Elder of the Day: Jim Storey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshipping 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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office (298-9092). *Recently updated entries are in italics.*

(We'll plan to leave celebrations listed for two Sundays—please call the church office if you'd like to add something!)

We celebrate: • *Congratulations to Alex Curcio for winning the lettuce-eating competition on campus to help raise money for the college* • *Thanks to Jim Storey for the many hours spent painting the pastor's office. The freshly painted walls look ready for a new day!* • *Rodney Lytle has accepted the presbytery's invitation to serve on the Nominating Committee of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Thank you, Rodney!* • *Thanks to Kay Stockdale and ChrisAnn Ohler for updating the catalog of art and artists whose work is found in the chapel and fellowship hall. One copy of that catalog is available in the parlor.* • *Thanks to all who made last Sunday's presentation by Jeff Keith possible, especially Sharon Lytle, Kay Stockdale, and Donna Eagle Joslin.* • *that Beth Newman has returned to Asheville! For now, she and Brownie expect to make weekly trips back to Northside Hospital in Atlanta on Sunday/Monday, but she is delighted to be easing back into rhythms at home;* • *that Rebecca Hettrick has moved into her own place on campus! You can drop her a note at 110 A North Lane Swannanoa, NC 28778;* • *the wedding of Rachel Sparling's granddaughter, Lilac. Lilac and Eli were married on March 30;* • *Donna saw a Bald Eagle in a tree across the road from her house on April 7;* • *the donation of more than 35 lbs of soap to Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries (SVCN), made possible by your generosity!* • *the vital ministry of members during tax season, as Janice Collins, Mary Craig, Tom Eller, Sarah Anne Eller, and Ken Murchison provided free tax preparation services to community members in need!*

We remember in prayer: *Isaiah Bullerdick (20), Rodney & Sharon Lytle's grandson recovering from a knee injury that ended his junior year football season; Jackie Ligon Cole; Pat Crumpler; Will Dale (Jamie's brother), who is much improved, and whose surgery has been postponed until later in the year; Vernon Daugherty, Sr. (Derron's father); Martha Dugger; Rick Garrison; Houston Huggins (Beth Meriwether's brother); Erika Lytle; Salyna Morgan, recovering from an infection in her bloodstream; Fran Roberts' sister-*

in-law, **Linda Briggs**; **Jon Hettrick** and his family; **Marjorie Hettrick**; Allyson Hettrick's mother, **Sylvia Revis**, as she recovers from a fall in assisted living; **Kim Reece** (daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison); **Shane Reece** (Nancy Garrison's son); Pat Wilson's son, **Kell**.

TODAY April 21: Please make plans to attend the luncheon kick-off of “**Holy Conversations,**” the **Mission Study** that will inform our path forward, and ultimately guide our search for a new pastor. **Congregational participation is crucial as we seek to answer these vital questions: *Who are we? What is God calling us to be and do? Who Is our neighbor?*** We will provide the food; all that you need to do is to come ready to listen and engage with others who care about this worshiping community and its ministry in the world. (**You do not need to be an official “member” to participate in this process—if you have interest in this community, we’d love for you to come!**)

WELCOME Rev. Brian Combs, founding pastor of downtown Asheville’s Haywood Street Congregation, an urban ministry whose mission is described as “Relationship, Above All Else.” Brian is a graduate of N.C. State and Emory University but knows that his most formative education has come from encountering the living Christ among the most rejected members of our society. Learn more about Haywood’s ministry here: <https://haywoodstreet.org>.

COLLEGE EVENT In partnership with Warren Wilson College, **Churches for Middle East Peace**, a Christian organization centered around raising awareness and building support for the Middle East, will be visiting to host an event about the Christian presence in Palestine. A discussion about what is currently happening will follow. The event will take place on **April 29, at 7:00 pm in the chapel**. The college welcomes guest speakers Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Jonathan Kuttab, and Destiny Magnett to share their expertise with the community.

OFFERING Plates are available just inside the doors to the sanctuary as you enter and exit. Our gifts take many forms: our open-hearted presence here, voices lifted in song, the prayers that rise in us, the material gifts we intend to share with the world, and our willingness to live in a world as advocates for those whose needs are overlooked. The money we bring symbolizes the offering of our lives in all circumstances.



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092

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!*