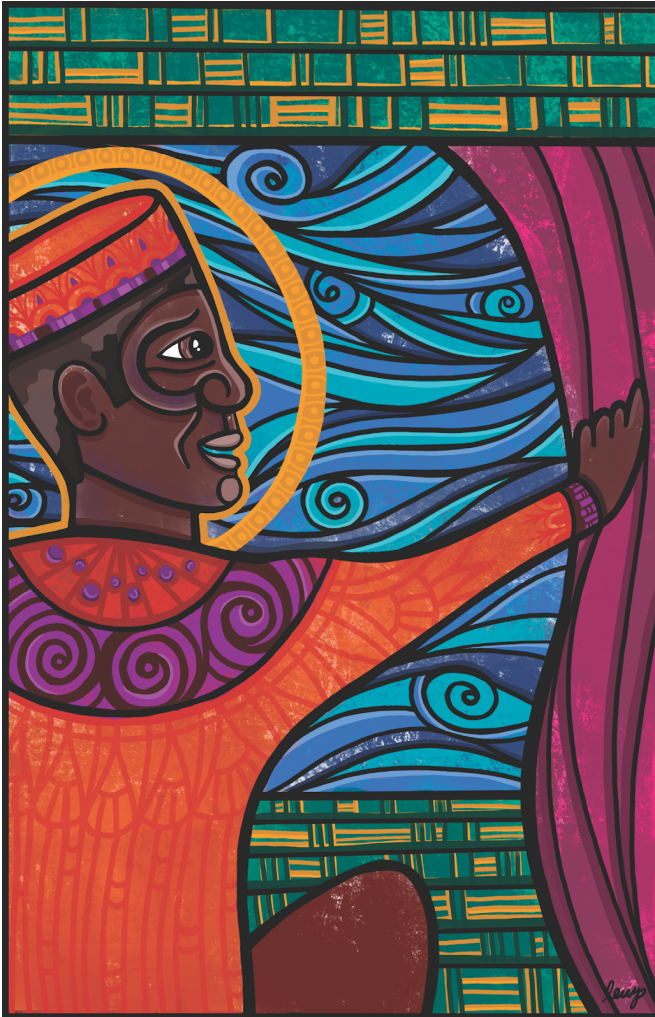


Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



April 28, 2024
5th Sunday in Easter

Love requires that we listen even when it hurts.

bell hooks

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Chrisann Ohler

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit
for the common good.

1 Cor. 12:4-7

**We have come to discover our gifts.
We have come to help others discover theirs.
We have come to offer them all for the common good.**

Let us worship the giver, the living God.

*HYMN 301

“Let Us Build a House”
TWO OAKS

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek
to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

***CONFESSION**

**Life-Giving God,
We fill our calendars
and manage our lists,
as though they might govern our days.**

**You disrupt those agendas,
confront us with strangers,
and ask us what we might learn.**

**In this hour,
remind us that the one we have "othered"
may be the teacher you have sent.**

**As we now breathe in your mercy,
open our hearts
to a love that heals.**

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

John 15:1-8

ANTHEM

“God So Loved The World”

John D. Horman
Beth Meriwether, Flute

*God so loved the world, that to us a son was given.
And whosoever believes in Him shall live forevermore.*

SECOND READING

Acts 8:26-40

SERMON

Margaret LaMotte Torrence
“Catching Up”

***HYMN 515**

“I Come with Joy”
DOVE OF PEACE

1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ’s communion bread,
in Christ’s communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,

and strangers now are friends.

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

***AFFIRMATION** (Unison) (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 339**

**“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
LIFT EVERY VOICE**

1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last

where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

Cover art, “*Dive In*”, by Lauren Wright Pittman,
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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

Liturgist: Chrisann Ohler
Coffee hour host: Joyce Cucinella & Betty Siviter
Elder of the Day: Beth Meriwether

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.

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

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: Donna for her many years of faith-full service • **Mason** up in the choir loft on soundboard. He's so attentive and invested, it's a joy to see him at work • Everyone who came out for the first of our **Holy Conversations** • 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 Jeff Keith's **presentation** possible, especially **Sharon Lytle, Kay Stockdale, and Donna Eagle Joslin**.

We remember in prayer: Isaiah Bullerdick (20), Rodney & Sharon Lytle's grandson recovering from a knee injury that ended his junior year football season; **Beth Newman**, as she continues to heal at home in Asheville; **Jackie Ligon Cole; Pat Crumpler; Will Dale** (Jamie's brother), anticipating cardiac bypass surgery in April, following lung cancer surgery in late February; **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**.

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. The event will take place on April 29, at 7:00 pm in the chapel. Guest speakers Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Jonathan Kuttub, and Destiny Magnett will share their expertise with the community.

DATES TO NOTE:

April 29 to May 8—Donna out on vacation

Sunday, May 19, 12:00-2:00: our next congregational gathering for "Holy Conversations," our Mission Study. We'll share salad, pizza, and ice cream sundaes, as well as lots of food for thought!

May 22-June 2—Margaret out on study leave/vacation

Wednesday, June 5: an evening picnic at Owen Park, to celebrate the ministry of Administrator **Donna Eagle Joslin, retiring June 1**.

Sunday, June 9: The whole congregation is invited to take a field trip as we join summer worship in **Anderson Auditorium in Montreat**. Margaret will preach. Please note that the start time is **10:30**. (*There will be no service at WWPC that morning.*)

Sunday, June 23: Austin Seminary's **Eric Wall** (who also serves as Conference Musician in Montreat during the summers) will be here for **an evening of conversation and song** as we consider the role of music in the life of faith.



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!*