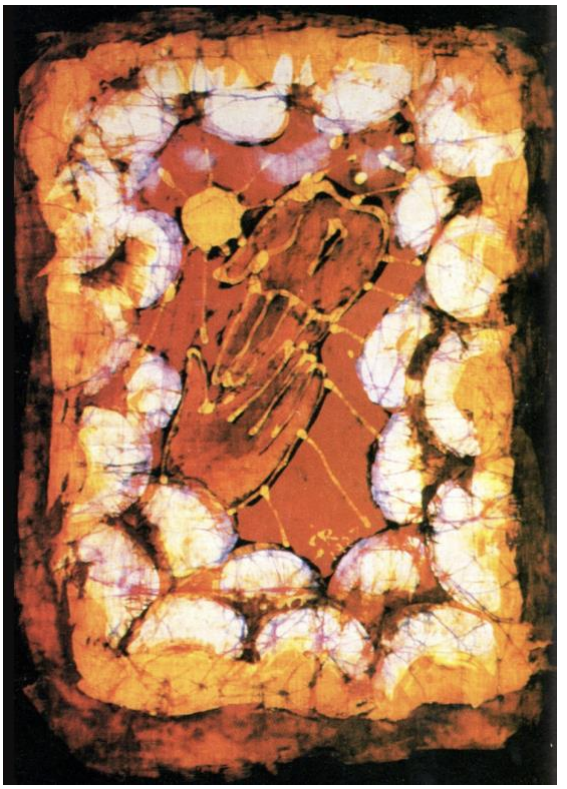

April 7, 2024
2nd Sunday in Easter

Preparation for Worship

"We do not know . . . how can we know the way?"
Courageous master of the awkward question,
You spoke the words the others dared not say
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.
O doubting Thomas, father of my faith,
You put your finger on the nub of things:
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,
Feel after him and find him in the flesh.
Because he loved your awkward counter-point,
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.
O place my hands with yours, help me divine
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

Malcolm Guite

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024
11:00 a.m.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

Into our fears and through our locked doors
Come, Wondrous God.

When we think 'peace be with you'
means no change or disruption,
Come, Incarnate one.

Amidst lives that confuse religious entertainment
with Easter fulfillment,
Come, Breath of Life.

For the sake of a community meant to be its best in crisis,
Come, Triune God.

***HYMN 485** "We Know That Christ Is Raised"
ENGELBERG

1 We know that Christ is raised
and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke
its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned
to blazing joy. Alleluia!

2 We share by water in
his saving death.
Reborn we share with him
an Easter life
as living members of
a living Christ. Alleluia!

3 The Father's splendor clothes
the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes
the church of God.
Baptized we live with God
the Three in One. Alleluia!

4 A new creation comes
to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes

on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored
and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unsettling Savior,
We imagine your peace as a private blessing
meant to ease our troubled hearts.

Instead your peace is restless
to flow *through* us,
to make its reconciling way in the world.

Speak then your Word, again,
and breathe on us your Spirit,
until we move beyond the doors of our comfort,
and into the world you love.

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.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 6:4-9

SECOND READING John 20:19-31

SERMON Margaret LaMotte Torrence
"The Marks of Love"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** 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. Amen

***HYMN 252** "Day of Arising"
RAABE

1 Day of arising,
Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him,
as fades the first day,
and bread is broken,
Christ is made known.

2 When we are walking,
doubtful and dreading,
blinded by sadness,
slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us,
ever awaiting
our invitation:
Stay, do not part.

3 Lo, I am with you,
Jesus has spoken.
This is Christ's promise,
this is Christ's sign:
when the church gathers,
when bread is broken,
there Christ is with us,
in bread and wine.

4 Christ, our companion,
hope for the journey,
bread of compassion,
open our eyes.
Grant us your vision,
set all hearts burning
that all creation
with you may rise.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation
The Table Prayer

This is the table not of the Church…
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

We praise you…
Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Merciful God…
…we are bold to say
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 Communion of the People

Prayer of Response

In gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people,
we give ourselves to you.
Take us out to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread, the New Wine
and cannot remain the same.
Ask much of us,
Expect much from us,
Enable much by us,
Encourage many through us.
So, Lord, may we live to your glory,
as children of the resurrection. Amen

***HYMN 254** "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright "
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

1 That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,

the apostles saw their risen Lord.

2 He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide,
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.

3 From every weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.

***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

Elder of the Day: Kay Stockdale

Opening Sentences adapted from liturgy by Chris Currie,
Presbyterian Outlook

Cover image: Batik by P. Solomon Raj, artandtheology.org

Communion liturgy adapted from Wild Goose Worship Group's
A Wee Worship Book, Fourth Incarnation

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.

GUEST ORGANIST Welcome back, Virginia McKnight! This accomplished organist and pianist has brought her talents to our sanctuary many times before, uplifting our spirits with her expertise. Virginia is retired from her position of Organist and Music Director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church but continues to cover services when needed. Thank you for being here, Virginia!

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 remember in prayer: 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; *Beth Newman, whose hoped-for return to the Asheville area has been delayed due to an acute case of Graft Verses Host Disease. Her doctors have adjusted her meds and she is feeling much better, but her return date is still up in the air;* 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.

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.

SAVE THESE DATES!
Sunday, April 14: We'll have lunch together in the fellowship hall as we learn from **Dr. Jeff Keith's re-examination of the history of Warren Wilson College.** Dr. Keith's work is funded by a Lilly Endowment grant.

Sunday 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!**)

RSVP: Please let us know that you plan to attend these events. **Sign-up sheets are in the lobby, or you may respond online, or by emailing or calling the church office.**
If you plan to come on April 14, please let us know by **Wed., April 10.**
If you plan to come on April 21, please let us know by **Wed., April 17**.

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!

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church