

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

May 12, 2024
Ascension of the Lord



So stay here in the city
until you have been clothed with power
from on high.
—Luke 24.49

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Ascension of the Lord

May 12, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Echoes of Westminster

John A. Behnke
Bell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Barbara Griswold

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases.

God's mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning.

Great is God's faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, says my soul.

*HYMN 37

"Let All Things Now Living"
ASH GROVE

1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us;
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished,
all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 By law God enforces,
the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

*CONFESSION

**God who is ever new, ever now,
God whose coming we often miss,
forgive the ways we cling to what we know
and imagine our choices as your own.**

**In mercy, do not leave us as you find us.
Tear the blinders from our eyes
and speak wonder to our hearts
until we see your Spirit blazing everywhere we turn.**

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

Ephesians 1:15-23

ANTHEM

This Joyful Eastertide

Arr. John Ferguson

“Text Meditation Reference: See Hymn #244”

SECOND READING

Luke 24:44-53

SERMON

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

“Peculiar Choreography”

***HYMN 260**

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”
HYFRYDOL

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:

"Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of angels,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

***AFFIRMATION**

Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28, 38-39

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.

**We know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

***HYMN 295**

"Go to the World!"
SINE NOMINE

1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

2 Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

This joyful Eastertide

Terry Osman

*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

Liturgist: Barbara Griswold

Coffee hour host: Sally Broughton

Elder of the Day: Don Collins

*The cover image is reprinted with the permission of the artist,
Miki de Goodaboom.*

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: *Sharon Lytle for representing WWPC at the April 30 meeting of the Presbytery of WNC • 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***

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**; **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**.

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING Please plan to stay after worship next week, **May 19**, for lunch and our next Mission Study gathering. We'll share **salad, pizza, ice cream sundaes and holy conversation**. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, and you do not need to be a member to come—newcomers' perspectives are incredibly helpful.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9, we will move our worship service to **Montreat**, and join the conference center's worship in **Anderson Auditorium at 10:30 AM**. **No services will be held that morning in the Warren Wilson Chapel**. *If you need a ride to the service, please let Sally Broughton know.*

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS—every Wednesday in June, we'll gather to share a meal, deepen friendships, and learn something new

- **June 5, 5:30 at Owen Park**—Come celebrate the ministry of **Donna Eagle Joslin**, as she retires! The church will provide barbecue and cake; please bring a side dish to share. There is a rumor that the **Whitewater Bluegrass Co** might get us all up on our feet...
- **June 12, 5:30 in the fellowship hall**—a simple dinner will be provided and we anticipate that a representative from **Lutheran Services** will be with us. Lutheran Services expects to welcome 20-25 **refugee families** to our area in the coming months and there is an urgent need to establish circles of welcome to support those families as they acclimate to new surroundings. Come and learn more about how we might contribute to those efforts.
- **June 19, 5:30 in the fellowship hall**—Come for a simple meal and WWC Chaplain Shannon Spencer and other guests will be here to share information about the **Inside-Out program**, in which Warren Wilson professors teach for-credit classes at the women's prison in Swannanoa. Students from WWC attend these classes alongside incarcerated women on-site at the correctional facility. The college is now exploring the possibility of bringing **formerly incarcerated women to campus** as full-time residential students. Our congregation could offer practical support and friendship to those new students, if this program comes to fruition.
- **June 26, 5:30 in the fellowship hall**—**Savanna Craig from SVCM** will share our simple supper and educate us about **new areas of ministry** being undertaken by SVCM

Please get any items for the **June newsletter** to Donna by **May 22** so that she can complete that project without feeling rushed in her last days in the office.

OUR PENTECOST OFFERING will be received today and next week. Proceeds go to support local, national, and international ministries serving children, youth and young adults.

LOVE GIFT FOR DONNA Checks can be made to the church, with “Donna’s gift” in the memo line.

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA has **\$500 scholarships** available for **Camp Grier** this summer. If you know any child or youth who might be interested in attending, have them contact Beth Gunn, the Presbytery Associate for Youth (beth.gunn@gmail.com, 828-329-9209).



WarrenWilsonPC



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WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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!*