

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

September 8, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost



We stand before a burning bush whenever other human beings share with us something of their relationship with God or something of the movements of their hearts. In such moments may we always realize that we stand on holy ground.

Margaret Silf

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS Margaret LaMotte Torrence

MINUTES FOR MISSION Jamie Dale and Vicki Collins

CENTERING SONG Maeve Williams

***CALL TO WORSHIP** PJ Parker

We bring who we truly are to the God of life.

**Let us bring ourselves:
some weary, some energetic;
some contented, some disquieted.**

We bring who we truly are to the God of truth.

**Let us bring ourselves:
some trusting, some doubting;
our questions and our certainties.**

We bring who we truly are to the God of light.

**Let us bring ourselves:
our achievements, our failures,
our public selves, our hidden selves.**

We bring who we truly are to the God of hope.

**Let us bring ourselves:
our dreams and visions,
our despair, our yearnings.**

We bring who we truly are to the God of all Creation.

**Let us bring ourselves:
broken, blessed,
made in God's image,
loved beyond measure.**

We bring who we truly are.

**Let us offer our worship
and be open to God's light and life among us.**

*HYMN 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
NETTLETON

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

*A SHARED PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Aidan Saunders

Trusting that we are held by a love that will never let us go, will you pray with me?

**Gracious and loving God,
You call us to be your people in this age.
Forgive us when we keep Christ in the past,
and the gospel as letters on a page,
and the church as an organization,
in which we may or may not participate.
Forgive us when fellowship and mission, meant for all,
are delivered to those we already know and love,
and we become a social club instead of your church.
Forgive us and have mercy upon us, O God.
Let your risen Christ reside here with us,
and the Gospel be the power of our life,
and the church be a people that show up to practice
and model a justice-centered love, wherever we may be.**

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 584)**

“Glory, Glory, Glory”

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!
And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well
pleased.

***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

Genesis 1: 24-27a
Allison Stevens

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Unwind”

Luke Wheelen

SECOND READING

Psalms 139: 1-18
Hannah Johnson

THIRD READING

Luke 15:11-32

SERMON

Marshall “Mac” Ware

***HYMN 300**

“We Are One in the Spirit”
THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

1 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love;
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)

3 We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we’ll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UCC)

Maeve Williams

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Luke Wheelen

Merciful God, In your creation you declared all, each and everyone, each and everything to be good. May I listen well and attend to what you declare to be good this day, at this time. In this world of so many names, faces, places, spaces, may we remember that there is room enough, there is love enough for all, each and everyone, each and everything. Amen

***HYMN 379**

"We Shall Overcome"
WE SHALL OVERCOME

1 We shall overcome;
we shall overcome;
we shall overcome someday.

Refrain:

O, deep in my heart
I do believe
we shall overcome someday!

2 We'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand someday. (Refrain)

3 We shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace someday. (Refrain)

4 We are not afraid;
we are not afraid;
we are not afraid today. (Refrain)

5 God will see us through;
God will see us through;
God will see us through today. (Refrain)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Marshall "Mac" Ware

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF

Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts; Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Coffee Hour Host: Welcome Students Potluck
Greeter: Chrisann Ohler
Elder of the Day: Natalie Daugherty

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.

WELCOME STUDENTS POTLUCK TODAY! Following worship, please stay to share a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall and celebrate the return of students to the campus. There will be plenty of food; just come! And while you are there, **please put together a bag for a neighbor who will use the new shower facilities at SVCN**. You will see an assembly line off to your left as you enter the Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS: If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office (298-9092).

We celebrate: the generous leadership of WWC students in worship today ◦ the return of our WWC Work Crew member, Olivia Crescitelli, who is starting her third (and final) year with us

We remember in prayer: the family and friends of **Edythe May Wiener**, who died August 23 in Charlottesville, VA ◦ the family and friends of **Rusty Runholt, Steve's older brother, who died August 22** ◦ **Brent Roberts and John Bishop** as they travel to Cleveland where Brent will have heart valve replacement surgery on September 18. They are expected to be in Cleveland at least 10 days ◦ **Amanda Branscombe**, now discharged from the hospital, and recovering slowly from spinal fusion surgery *Amanda's address in Alabama is 77 Meadowlake Lane, Talladega, Al 35160*) ◦ **Bill Christy**, as he continues to heal following a heart transplant ◦ **Susan Laney**, receiving therapy at home ◦ **Bubba Lytle, Rodney and Sharon's son**, making excellent progress recovering from a serious motorcycle accident ◦ **Thurman Slone, Joyce Cucinella's brother**, now under Hospice care ◦ **Carol Lee Joslin, Blake Joslin's mother**, suffering from Alzheimer's ◦ **Beth Newman**, who is back at work but continuing to recover her strength following a bone marrow transplant ◦ **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** ◦ **Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs** ◦ **Jon Hettrick and his family** ◦ **Marjorie Hettrick** ◦ **Shane Reece (Nancy Garrison's son)** ◦ **Pat Wilson's son, Kell.**

HOMELESSNESS LEARNING SERIES **Debbie Alford, Homeless Strategy Specialist for the City of Asheville will offer a three-part series from 5-6 PM on Sept 24, Oct 1 and Oct 8.** This opportunity is being advertised throughout the community. Please register if you would like to come to one or more sessions. More information in the narthex.

2024 SVCM WALK FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR October 13, 2-5 PM at First Baptist Church, Black Mountain. Order a T shirt by Sept. 15. Can't walk that day? Order a T shirt for someone else! \$20. Sign up in the lobby. Look for Jamie Dale or someone with a clipboard. Questions? Contact Jamie Dale, 828-450-3672, samdale2@gmail.com.

CHOIR AND HANDBELLS ARE BACK Both handbells and the Chapel Choir have resumed for the new year. Handbells starts at 6:00 on Wednesdays with choir happening at 7:00. Give Director Ted Stewart a call to give choir a try - (816) 305-1038. Call Natalie Daugherty to try your hand at the bells - (336) 413-9071.

WWC's ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE will be held on Saturday, **October 5th at 9:30** in the cemetery on Dillingham Circle.

CIRCLE OF WELCOME Lutheran Services has rented a house very near the Warren Wilson campus, in order to house a refugee family that is likely to arrive by September 15. Please contact Vicki Collins if you would like to help.

HABITAT VOLUNTEER DAYS IN OCTOBER We have volunteer dates reserved to help with Habitat House of Faith #4 in Arden on Oct. 19 and 25. If you are going to help with this important mission project, please notify Larry Griswold at larrygris@gmail.com soon. No previous experience or special skills are needed, only a willingness to help. Many other dates between Oct. 8 - Nov 23 are available if that would be better for you.

TEACHER REBEKAH WALKER, FUTURE OWNER OF HOUSE OF FAITH #4, WILL BE WITH US FOR A HABITAT MOMENT FOR MISSION ON SEPT. 29. This is our first Habitat homeowner guest since Covid for this annual event where we receive a special offering to help with building the house. Options for contributing to this offering include: 1) through our church website (click Give Online button - top right corner), 2) by check with “Habitat Offering” written on the memo line and dropped in an offering plate or mailed to the church office, or 3) by Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA or check from a Donor Advised Gift Fund designated “Habitat Offering.”

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Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WarrenWilsonPC



WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch



@WarrenWilsonPC

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!