

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

September 22, 2024
18th Sunday after Pentecost



“Through Him, All Things”

In my image, Jesus is a prism. The light that is life that comes from the Creator shines through Jesus, and it is through him that we can see the fullness and beauty of who God is. It is through him that all of Creation came into being...

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
sanctifiedart.org

The gifts God has given us are not in spite of our otherness, our queerness, our LGBTQIA2S+ identities, but rather our identities are inextricably tied up in our God-given gifts, and are, in and of themselves, a gift to the church, as we reflect the rainbow diversity of God’s creation.”

—thehymnsociety.org

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** John 1:1-5 Winn Legerton

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him,

and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,

and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness did not overcome it.

***HYMN** “Sing a New World into Being”

HYMN TO JOY

Sing a new world into being, sound a bold and hopeful theme.

Find a tune for silent yearnings,

lend your voice and dare to dream.

Dream a church where all who worship

find their lives and loves belong.

Sing a new world into being, sing as Christ inspires your song.

Sing a new world into being, where each gender class and race.

Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God’s limitless embrace.

Where the lines that once divided

form instead the ties that bind.

Sing a new world into being, risk transforming heart and mind.

Sing a new world into being, where the homeless find a home.

Where no children ever hunger,

but are filled with God’s shalom.

Where all people work for justice,

where all hate and vengeance cease.

Sing a new world into being, raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being, join the ancient prophets’ cry.

For a time of health and plenty,

when all tears have been wiped dry.

When compassion flows like waters,

pouring balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world into being, live the promise you believe.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,
So often your church has failed to follow you
into places of grief or threat.
We have not listened to, or learned from,
the ones you sent to teach us.
We have stayed idle, when we should have been on the
move.
We have remained quiet, when we should have spoken.
We have not wept with those who weep.**

**In this moment of stillness, call us by name.
Be the resurrection in our midst.
Grant us the courage to listen, to move, to speak, to weep
to express our sorrow to those we have harmed—
until the whole creation moves
in the cadence of your 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 583)**

“Glory to God”

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

You shine with the image of God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children and youth are invited to come forward.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

ANTHEM

How Blest Are They

Richard Proulx

*How happy those who love the Lord and walk along His ways,
Their life of love they shall enjoy with blessings all their days.
The Lord looks down and blesses you from Sion's holy place,
your children's children you shall see grow strong in health and
grace.*

*The beauty of Jerusalem in this life you shall see,
Thus live all those who love the Lord, Behold, how blest are they!*

SECOND READING

John 11:1-44

SERMON

Shannon Spencer

*HYMN 292

"As the Wind Song"
WAIRUA TAPU

1 As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

2 As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

AFFIRMATION

1 John 4:16, Micah 6:8

We hold fast to this truth:

**God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.**

And what does the Lord require of us?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 79**

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”
TEMPLE OF PEACE

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children’s dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes.

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

Liturgist: Winn Legerton
Coffee Hour Host: Vicki Collins
Greeter: Catherine Showalter
Elder of the Day: Don Collins

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.

GUEST PREACHER We are blessed to have the Rev. Dr. Shannon Spencer, Director of Spiritual Life and Chaplain of the College, preaching for us today. Welcome, Shannon!

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 wedding of Janice Collins and Jim Storey's son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Kristen, on September 21 ◦ the the healthy delivery of **Cindy and Dennis Riley's 6th grandchild, Lillian Mae Ruge**, born September 12th, in Thousand Oaks, CA ◦ Thanks to **Andrew Tripp** for installing new choir mics in the balcony ◦ Thanks to **Bob Gambrell** for transporting 100 bags of shower supplies to SVCM, and to the **Community Outreach Team** for making it all possible ◦ **The arrival of the Azizi Family** from Afghanistan.

We remember in prayer: the family and friends of **Billy Edd Wheeler**, following his death on September 16 ◦ 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 Brent recovers from successful heart valve replacement surgery on September 18 ◦ **Ernst Laursen**, receiving therapy at the Laurels at Summit Ridge, following a recent hospitalization ◦ **Olivia Crescitelli's mother, Lisa** recovering from back surgery on September 13 ◦ **Amanda Branscombe**, having a difficult recovery 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 at 5 PM on Sept 24, Oct 1, and Oct 8. Please register to come to one or more sessions. More information in the narthex.

CHOIR AND HANDBELLS Handbells and the Chapel Choir have resumed on Wednesdays. Handbells is at 6:00 with choir at 7:00.

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 those would be better for you.

HABITAT GUEST Teacher Rebekah Walker, future owner of House of Faith #4, will be with us for a Habitat Moment for Mission Next Sunday. 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.”

TOGATHER “Come, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest,” Matthew 11:28 - Jesus invites us to come to him and to come together to share our burdens and find rest. You are invited to join Beth Meriwether for a new group, Together, meeting Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30, in the Adult Education Room, September 26 through November 21, for a time of sharing, contemplation, and prayer. If you are interested, please contact Beth Meriwether at (828) 777-2867 or bethmeriwether@gmail.com.

2024 SVCM WALK FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR Oct. 13, 2-5 PM at First Baptist Church, Black Mountain. Sign up in the lobby to walk or to sponsor a walker. Look for Jamie Dale or someone with a clipboard. Questions? Contact Jamie Dale, (828) 450-3672, samdale2@gmail.com. Make Mr. Rogers—and Jesus—proud. Be a good neighbor.

HOMEcomings POTLUCK After worship on October 6th is the annual Homecoming Potluck. It is always a great event to see our old and new friends! Please bring a dish or two to share! Drinks will be provided by Congregational Life Ministry Team.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Our Adult Education Class welcomes everyone back from summer break. Together we read books, watch videos, listen to speakers, and have lively conversations. It's a great opportunity to get to know folks better and expand our knowledge and perspectives. We meet Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Education class at the end of the hall in the administrative building. All are welcome!



WHEELER MEMORIAL A service of thanksgiving for the life of Billy Edd Wheeler will be held in the chapel on Friday, October 4 at 2:00 PM. The service will also be live-streamed and recorded for later viewing.



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

www.warrenwilsonchurch.org



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!*