Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

November 24, 2024



The Wren from Carolina

Just now the wren from Carolina buzzed
through the neighbor's hedge
a line of grace notes I couldn't even write down
much less sing.

Now he lifts his chestnut colored throat
and delivers such a cantering praise–
for what?

For the early morning, the taste of the spider,
for his small cup of life
that he drinks from every day, knowing it will refill.

All things are inventions of holiness.
Some more rascally than others.
I'm on that list too,
though I don't know exactly where.

But, every morning, there is my own cup of gladness,
and there's that wren in the hedge, above me,
with his blazing song.

- Mary Oliver

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

November 24, 2024 11:00 AM

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP Ken Murchison

PRELUDE

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(responsive)* Barbara Griswold

Praise be to you, O God,
source of life and goodness.
You fill the earth with abundance
and love what you have made.
As we join our praise to all of creation's,
teach us to care for our common home.

Praise be to you, O God,
revealed in Jesus, your love made flesh.
We hear the call of the Carpenter,
to carve a path to a better future.
Guide our hands to repair what's broken,
to build a just and peaceful world.

Praise be to you, O God,
who enfolds us with the Spirit,
to call us deeper into the heart of love,
to comfort and disturb.
Give us strength and courage
to follow wherever you would lead. Amen.

***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!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God,
when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day,
you are Lord;
and when chaos threatens to overwhelm
and we dread the next news cycle—
still you are Lord.
Always you are creating, redeeming, sustaining.

Speak then your mercy into this place
until we discover the courage to open our eyes,
unclench our hands,
and move toward our neighbor in need—
until all the world rises and moves with the rhythm of your grace,

for we long to honor your free and holy name.

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 700)** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***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 *(responsive)* Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God:

"**A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down**
into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number,
and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.
When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us,
by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord,
the God of our ancestors. The Lord heard our voice
and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.
The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand
and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power,
and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place
and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.
So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you,
O Lord, have given me."

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

ANTHEM Now Thank We All Our God J.S. Bach, Arr. Hal H. Hopson

Now thank we all our God with heart and hand and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done in whom the world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-8, 11b-13

SERMON Margaret LaMotte Torrence

***HYMN 643** "Now Thank We All Our God"
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

***AFFIRMATION** Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 36** "For the Fruit of All Creation"
AR HYD Y NOS

1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

***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: Barbara Griswold
Elder of the Day: Don Collins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP Stewardship season is underway. Additional copies of the stewardship letter, the budget, and the form to indicate your commitment are available in the narthex. We are grateful for all the ways you show your support and love in this place.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS We meet Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Education class at the end of the hall in the administration building. Join us!

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

We celebrate: Aidan Saunders and the farm crew for creating our harvest display. We are grateful to see this tradition continue! ◦ **Sharon Lytle and her team of willing companions** who offered a lovely soup luncheon after church on November 10

We remember in prayer: The family of **Vernon Daugherty, Derron's father,** following his death on November 17 ◦ **Wynee Bullerdick, daughter of Rodney and Sharon Lytle** as she collaborates with her doctor to determine the cause of her illness. ◦ all who continue to be affected by loss caused by recent storms. In our congregation, remember especially **Andrew Tripp, Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle,** and **Bob, the father of Natalie's partner Jeff** ◦ **Donna Eagle Joslin,** healing from wrist surgery. ◦ **Amanda Branscombe,** as she continues to recover from spinal fusion surgery ◦ **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 ◦ **Jackie Ligon Cole** ◦ **Pat Crumpler** ◦ **Martha Dugger** ◦ **Rick Garrison** ◦ **Houston Huggins** (**Beth Meriwether's brother**) ◦ **Erika Lytle** ◦ **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**

HABITAT VOLUNTEER DAYS IN DECEMBER Volunteer work on Habitat House of Faith #4 in Arden will continue through Dec. 14. For more information, please talk to Larry Griswold or contact him at larrygris@gmail.com.

TOGATHER The Togather group will meet on December 12 and 26. If interested, contact bethmeriwether@gmail.com.

A/V TRAINING We are building a team of folks who are available to run the soundboard and live stream for our Sunday morning services. If you're curious to know whether that might be a fit for you, training will be offered for **30-45 minutes after worship** on **December 15**.

AN INVITATION TO SINGERS Singers are invited to sing with the WWPC Chapel Choir during Advent and Christmas Season. A good opportunity to give choir a try and strengthen your voice in praise. No auditions. Just show up at choir rehearsals on Wednesdays 7:00-8:20 PM in the Choir Loft. (Sunday Morning Warm-up is 10:15-10:45 AM) Contact **Director Ted Stewart, (816) 305-1038,** stewart.smith@att.net with questions or if you know someone else who should be singing. A welcome place to be!

HURRICANE RELIEF Session has set up a **fund to provide aid to neighbors most affected by Hurricane Helene**. There are handouts in the narthex explaining these giving opportunities.

DIRECTORY UPDATES We are updating our online directory, and we'd love to have you particiapte. Please review the printout in the narthex to verify your contact information. You may email a current photo to the church at andrew-tripp@warren-wilson.edu or see Sarah Anne Eller this morning to have your picture taken.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING We are decorating the Chapel for Christmas December 6, starting at 11:00 AM. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Please contact either Rachel Sparling (248) 762-0858 or Vicki Collins (828) 712-0251 if you will be helping.

FAITH COMMUNITIES ORGANIZING FOR SANCTUARY is re-forming to stand in solidarity with immigrant neighbors as challenges emerge in the coming months. If you would like to be part of this leadership team, contact the Reverend Sara Wilcox at sara@landoftheskychurch.org. See Jamie Dale for more information.

WASSAIL Come enjoy Wassail on Dec. 8th and meet Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini, our new Transitional Pastor (as of January 1). Bring finger foods (h'ors d'oeuvres) to share, Congregational Life will be serving the Wassail punch. All are welcome!

COOKIES AND CAROLS On December 15 at 4:00 we will celebrate a festive holiday tradition: Cookies and Carols! Enjoy delicious Christmas treats and join in singing some favorite Christmas songs with the Warren Wilson Community.

The Prayer of the Day is by Caroline Stanton
- adapted for this service.

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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