

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

January 19, 2025



Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ
and accept him as your Lord and Savior,
trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jamie Dale

In the waters of baptism, we are claimed by the Holy Spirit

**The voice of the Lord—Strong and Mighty,
powerful and full of majesty, calls to us in the water.**

Water can cleanse, threaten, refresh, and invigorate.

Water can take different forms and hold different properties.

Water is an everyday miracle that is necessary for life.

The waters of baptism fall on us, claiming us:

God calls to us, calling across the water.

The voice of the Lord breaks forth in baptism:

to Jesus and to us: this is my beloved

*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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, your waters of faithfulness run deep, and we have been afraid they will overwhelm us. Your Spirit burns brightly and we fear we may be consumed if we show too much enthusiasm. We retreat to the safeplaces where we can avoid challenges, conflict, and uncertainty. We shrink from risks and we miss much. Free us for to live into Your calling for us.

(Silent Reflection) **Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life, let us declare:
We are baptized; our sins are forgiven; we live in grace.

*RESPONSE (sung)

Hymn 483 verse 2

*Your command is clear and plain, and we would obey it duly:
“You must all be born again, heart and life renewing truly,
born of water and the Spirit, and my kingdom thus inherit.”*

*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 of all ages are invited to come forward.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

ANTHEM

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Michael Praetorius

*On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God
within,*

and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

*We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand our health restore, and make us rise to fall no
more.*

O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

Articles 1 and 4 from the Belhar Confession

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.

We believe that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged

We believe that God calls the church to follow him in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry

We believe God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

We believe that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly

We believe that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering

We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek what is right

We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

We believe that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.

This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 339**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LIFT EVERY VOICE

1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on, till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

You have been baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
We pray for courage to do what is right.
We seek the strength to witness for peace.
We are God's beloved children.
Let us seek to live in ways that are life giving and life sharing.
God has created us for good.
We will worship the God of power and strength.
Even now, God's hand of blessing rests on us.
Even now, the love of peace, descends.
Even now, we are called as partners for reconciliation and justice.
We leave this time and place, renewed, refreshed, reminded:
Nothing separates us from the love of God
through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF

Laurie Furr-Vancini, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar and Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Elder of the Day: Sally Broughton
Sound/Video: Jim Storey
Liturgist: Jamie Dale

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.

OFFERING Plates are available just inside the doors to the chapel as you enter and exit. Our gifts take many forms: open-hearted presence here, voices lifted in song, the prayers that rise in us, the material gifts we share with neighbors, and our willingness to live in a world as allies and advocates for those whose needs are overlooked. The monies we bring symbolize the offering of our lives in all circumstances.

A separate labeled basket is available each week to receive Our Daily Change offerings, formerly known as Five Cents a Meal hunger offering.

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.

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

We remember in prayer: The family of **Patrice Lytle, Rodney and Sharon's neice**, following her death. ◦ The family of **Jack and Sue Allison**, on the death of **Jack's brother Robin**. ◦ The family of **Thurman Slone, Joyce Cucinella's brother**, following his death on December 22 ◦ **Salyna Morgan**, recovering from surgery for a broken arm ◦ **Dina Taylor, Barbara Escalante's sister**, recovering from surgery in California on December 2, for a brain bleed. ◦ **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, we remember especially **Andrew Tripp, Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle, Joyce Cucinella**, and **Bob, the father of Natalie's partner Jeff** ◦ **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 ◦ **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 FEBRUARY AND MARCH Faith partner volunteers, including 10 from our church, made great progress helping Habitat build new affordable homes in Arden last fall, and there is a new opportunity for volunteers to help from February 4-March 22. We have spaces reserved on the volunteer schedule for Fridays Feb 14 and March 7, and Saturdays Feb. 15 and March 8, and many other dates are available. No special skills or tools are needed, only a willingness to help. If you have questions about this important mission project, contact Larry Griswold (larrygris@gmail.com).

NEWSLETTER We are working on a **Winter Edition of the Newsletter** with a submission deadline of **January 24th**. Please send any articles or other content suggestions to Andrew in the church office.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS We meet **Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Ed room**. The book that we are currently focusing on is John Pavlovitz's Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage & Compassion When Cruelty is Trending. This book seems particularly relevant in these days in which we are living. Contact Beth Meriwether (828-777-2867) with any questions. All are welcome.

TOGATHER We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month through May at 1:30 PM in the chapel parlor. Please know that all are welcome and there are no expectations. This is a time to build and strengthen relationships, spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer, learn and practice calming and relaxation skills, and share resources. January would be a great time to begin. Contact Beth Meriwether (828-777-2867) for information.

WWPC 2025 BUDGET There is still time for last minute stewardship commitments to be included in the WWPC 2025 final budget. Submitting a commitment form or contacting receiving treasurer Brent Roberts by Sunday January 19 will ensure that all commitments will be included in the 2025 budget to be approved at the Session meeting on January 21. The budget team wishes to express our thanks for the generosity of this congregation which sustains the church's operations and mission to the wider community.

Prayers of the people adapted from Louise Morgan in Worship for All Seasons, Volume 1

Lift Every Voice and Sing was initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900. This text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.



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!*