

# Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

February 16, 2025



“I love the melodies in the Old Testament, how preachers highlight them when they read from scripture. But I was influenced forever by the New Testament. I love the Beatitudes, informs us that the meek shall inherit the earth.”

-Maya Angelou

# Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

February 16, 2025 11:00 AM

### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Psalm 1:1-3 Don Collins

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

**but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on God's Word they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

**We come to the water, to be planted. To live in love.  
We come to worship.**

**\*HYMN 39**

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”  
FAITHFULNESS

1 \*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
(Refrain)

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
(Refrain)

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)**

**Abiding God, you come near to us. We give thanks that you do not turn away from us when our lives reflect messiness, ungraciousness, and complacency. Take us deeper, O God, and help us to confront what needs to be known, addressed, and changed within us, our community, and our world. Forgive us and free us from guilt and shame so that we might embrace a life of accountability and transformation for the glory of God and for the hope of humanity. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Good creation of God, the Holy One has begun a good work in you and will see it through to completion. Receive God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace as the gift that has been given. It is available, yours, and enough. And that is the great good news of all time. **Amen.**

**RESPONSE (sung) #832**

**“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand”**

**KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA**

Refrain:

Here on Jesus Christ I will stand.  
He's the solid rock of my life.  
He's the solid rock of my life.  
He's the solid rock of my life.

Kwake Yesu nasimama,  
ndiye mwamba ni salama.  
Ndiye mwamba ni salama,  
ndiye mwamba ni salama.

1 There's no other place I can hide  
till the storm that rages subsides.  
My voice cries to God from the flood,  
and I'm saved because of his blood. (Refrain)

2 It is not the work of my hands  
that has washed away all my sins.  
I'm redeemed, and all of my days,  
Jesus Christ will be my heart's praise. (Refrain)

3 When my days on this earth are done,  
and I stand at God's holy throne,  
my heart will not have any fear;  
in Christ's righteousness I am here. (Refrain)

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## **A TIME FOR CHILD IN ALL OF US**

*Children and youth of all ages are invited to come forward.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST LESSON

Luke 6:17-26

### ANTHEM "Where Shall I Go From Your Spirit? Kenney Potter

*Where shall I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go up to the heavens, you are there,  
And if I lie down in the depths, you are there.*

*And if I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I go to the ends of the earth,  
even there you will guide me, Your hand will hold me fast*

*Wherever I may be, you are there!*

### SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-10

### SERMON "The Level Places" Rev. Susan Verbrugge

### \*HYMN #463 "How Firm a Foundation" verses 1, 2, and 5 FOUNDATION

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**\*HYMN #100**

**“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”  
STAR OF COUNTY DOWN**

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**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:** Jim Storey  
**Sound/Video:** Derron Daugherty  
**Liturgist:** Don Collins

**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.

**GUEST PREACHER** Chaplain Susan Verbrugge is a true mountain girl, born in Boone, NC, where the mountains soaked into her soul and haven't let go since. Chaplain Verbrugge has a BA from Wake Forest University, an MDiv from Columbia Theological Seminary, and is ordained in the PC(USA). Prior to being a chaplain at Western Correctional Center for Women, she spent twenty years as a pastor in two congregations in Blacksburg, VA and three years as a hospice chaplain with CarePartners in Asheville. During her time as a pastor, Chaplain Verbrugge walked with several people through their experience with the "justice" system, from being charged to prison time. It was through those experiences that she felt drawn to prison ministry. She is honored to be a part of the good work that is done through Ministry of Hope. She has two grown children (son is a wildland firefighter in Montana and daughter is working in Atlanta and applying to school to be a Physician's Assistant), a husband who is really good at making her laugh, two dogs, and two cats. She loves walking in the woods with her dogs, reading, drinking hot tea, napping, baking, and knitting. She has a passion for social justice and for helping each person know that they are a beautiful child of God.

**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.

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

**We celebrate:** Improved lighting in and around the Chapel courtesy of **Bob Gambrell** ◦ All whose pieces went in the 2024 Annual Report and **Andrew Tripp and Sally Broughton** for compiling and creating it.

**We remember in prayer: The family of Will Dale, Jamie's brother,** following his death on January 29 ◦ **Vicki Collins,** recovering from shoulder surgery ◦ **Wanda Mitchell, friend of Sally Broughton,** has been referred to hospice care after a hospitalization for pneumonia. ◦ **Mary Craig** recovering from back surgery ◦ 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 ◦ Ongoing prayers for the

extended Lytle family ◦ Jackie Ligon Cole ◦ Pat Crumpler ◦ Martha Dugger ◦ Rick Garrison ◦ Houston Huggins (Beth Meriwether's brother) ◦ 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

**SOUPER BOWL** Today we will share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously, with all donations collected going toward feeding programs in the Swannanoa Valley.

**HABITAT VOLUNTEER DAYS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH** Faith partner volunteers, including 10 from our church, made great progress helping Habitat build affordable homes in Arden last fall, and there is a new opportunity for volunteers to help from now through March 22. We have spaces reserved on the volunteer schedule for Friday March 7, and Saturday, March 8, and many other dates are available. No special skills or tools are needed, only a willingness to help. If you have questions and would like to know more about this important mission project, please contact Larry Griswold at [larrygris@gmail.com](mailto:larrygris@gmail.com)

**ASHEVILLE AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** is seeking additional applicants for its green built affordable houses. If you know someone who might be interested, tell them to go to [ashevillehabitat.org](http://ashevillehabitat.org) and scroll down the home page to the photo with Apply on it. Open that to read about home ownership and download an application.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** A small group is being put together to help babysit a two-year old child of a Warren Wilson senior. The mother is a single parent and needs some study time in the afternoons. Teams of two are watching the child in the nursery of WWPC on some weekdays through May. Pastor Laurie says the child is adorable and sweet natured and the mother as grateful. If you are interested in being part of this team to help this mother graduate, contact Barbara Gaw at (828) 775-4463.

**TOGATHER** We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month through May at 1:30 PM in the chapel parlor. This is a time where all are welcome to build and strengthen relationships, spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer, learn and practice calming and relaxation skills, and share resources. This is an open group; feel free to come whenever you are able. Contact Beth Meriwether (828-777-2867) for more information.

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASS** We meet **Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Ed room**. On March 2 we will begin a book study by Elizabeth F. Caldwell, [Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalm](#). Contact Beth Meriwether (828-777-2867) with questions. All are welcome.



**PANCAKE SUPPER** Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper is March 4th at 6:00 PM - one last hurrah before we begin Lent! Sign up in the narthex to be a pancake cooker, or to bring a protein, egg casserole (meat, vegetarian, or vegan), or fruit. King cake will be provided. Please join us for a fun evening and wear those Mardi Gras beads!

**BEER & HYMNS** February 24 at 7:00 PM at the White Horse in Black Mountain featuring Black Mountain Presbyterian musician, Aaron Price. Cost is \$15 with proceeds going to the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. Tickets available on the White Horse website.

**NEW SANCTUARY PIANO** The funding for the new sanctuary piano purchased in November was provided by existing church resources: endowment funds, designated funds, and prior year surplus funds. If anyone would like to make an additional contribution for the piano to help replenish these church sources, that would be most welcome. Should you wish to contribute please indicate that you are giving to the piano fund.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** marks the beginning of Lent in the church year. Receiving ashes marks our humanity as people of the earth. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 5 at 6:00 PM.

*Cover Painting by Joseph Matar, Lebanese Artist*



**Warren Wilson**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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[www.warrenwilsonchurch.org](http://www.warrenwilsonchurch.org)



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*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!*