Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

February 23, 2025



Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be still and know.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know that I am God.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
7th Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive - based on Psalm 104)

We gather in the presence of the One who breathes life into all of Creation.
We sing God's praises, breathing in God's glory.
All are welcome in the presence of the Spirit in this time and place.
We come, seeking the goodness in the hands of God.
We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.
Together we reflect the fullness of God's love;
together we bring God's love into the world.
Let us worship the Living God whose breath gives us life.

***HYMN 250** "In the Bulb There is a Flower"
PROMISE

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

CALL TO PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER (unison – based on Romans 8)

Holy One, be with us in this sacred space. Stir your Spirit in and among us as we offer our prayers and praises. We long to hear more than the groaning of Creation around us, more than our own fearful groaning. From the places deep within us, that we mistakenly believe are hidden from you, may your Spirit intercede for us. Draw us into your presence. May we recognize you in ourselves and in our neighbors. Let us see you through all brokenness that we may find wholeness in being your body here and now. In the name of the One who fills the world with Hope. Amen.

RESPONSE (sung) #698 (sing 3 times)

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

Hear the Good News: No valley is too despairing, broken, or dusty for God to enter in. No fear, no chaos, no hopelessness is beyond the reach of the One whose breath gives us life.
Through Christ, God sees only our wholeness. Through Christ, forgiveness, love, and new life are always possible.
We are reclaimed and remade by the Spirit of Life. In our brokenness and in our wholeness we are God's beloved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 Psalm 46: 1-5, 10

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ANTHEM Hymn 753 "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
Francis of Assisi

Stanzas 1, 2, & 3: Choir;
*Stanza 4: All

SECOND LESSON 2nd Corinthians 4:1-2, 7-9, 16

SERMON Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***HYMN 301** ”Let Us Build a House” (stanzas 1, 4, and 5)
TWO OAKS

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 754** **“**Help Us Accept Each Other”
BARONITA

1 Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!

***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: Don Collins
Sound/Video: Jim Storey
Coffee Hour Host: Donna Eagle Joslin and Sarah Anne Eller

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.

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

We celebrate: Jim Storey and his efforts to get us better lighting in the narthex and parlor, as well as better electrical access at the chancel. ◦ **Natalie Daugherty** for completing her certificate program.

We remember in prayer: the family of Will Dale, Jamie's brother, following his death on January 29 ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ **Vicki Collins,** recovering from shoulder surgery ◦ **Wanda Mitchell, friend of Sally Broughton,** has been referred to hospice care after a hospitalization for pneumonia. ◦ 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** ◦ **Susan Laney**, receiving therapy at home ◦ Ongoing prayers for the extended **Lytle family** ◦ **Mary Craig** ◦ **Jackie Ligon Cole** ◦ **Pat Crumpler** ◦ **Martha Dugger** ◦ **Rick Garrison** ◦ **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**

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES The Swannanoa Valley Ministerial Alliance is having a community Lenten service every Wednesday at noon from March 5-April 16, with a Good Friday service on April 18. Each will be led by a different church (we are leading the April 2 service). All services will be hosted at Black Mountain UMC and will be followed by a free community meal provided by Open Table.

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.

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

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 and scroll down the home page to the photo with Apply on it. Open that to read about home ownership and download an application.

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.

NEWSLETTER It's Newsletter time again! Please send Andrew your submissions and/or suggestions for a Lenten Newsletter by February 26.

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 for our Ash Wednesday Service.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer by Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe
Prayers of the People based on a prayer written by Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
Cover Picture: mountains as you come to Warren Wilson Farm, College, and Church – anonymous photographer with no copyright

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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!