Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

March 16, 2025



"Jesus' response (about Mary) is radical because he affirms she has chosen a good portion of the work, and even though she (Mary) is not where she is expected to be, no one can take that away from her."

- Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

2nd Sunday in Lent
March 16, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Donna Eagle Joslin

Come as you are.
If you have deep faith or your faith has run dry,
if you know every scripture or none at all,
if you have calloused hands and live your faith through good works,
or if you kneel at God's feet, with a million hungry questions,
come as you are.
This is God's house. None are turned away.
All are welcome here.

***HYMN 331** "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"
NATIONAL HYMN

1 God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

2 Thy love divine hath led us in the past.
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay:
thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

3 From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

4 Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.
Lead us from night to never-ending day.
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Grace, We long to do the "right" thing. We long to make the "right" choice. We long to stand on the "right" side of the dividing line. In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us. In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love. Show us how to hold our heart's desire for perfection loosely. Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else. For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you. Show us the way. Amen.

***RESPONSE TO CONFESSION**

"You Are My Refuge, Faithful God" #214 stanzas 1 & 5

You are my refuge, faithful God;
you shelter me from shame.
I put my spirit in your hands
and call upon your name.

And yet I trust in you, O God;
your covenant still stands.
Redeem me, in your faithful love:
my life is in your hands.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Faithful friends, God knows your heart. When you mean well and lose your way, God knows. When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows. When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows. You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have been sent to serve. This is the good news of the gospel! Nothing can separate you from God's love..
This is the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSON Luke 10:38-42

ANTHEM **"**Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" Gordon Young

See Hymn #65 for text reference and meditation.

SERMON "everything (in)between faith & works"
Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***HYMN 732** ”Rejoice in God's Saints” OLD 104TH

1 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.

2 Some march with events to turn them God's way;
some need to withdraw, the better to pray;
some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:
our world is their parish; their purpose is God.

3 Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own;
they share our complaining, our comforts, our cares:
what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!

4 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

We believe in a Christ who teaches, sees, affirms, and celebrates all of who we are.
We believe in a Christ who invites us to use our gifts for good and celebrates every step we take in that direction.
We believe in a Christ who understands our anxieties and is gentle with our concerns.
And we believe in a Christ who looks at us with undiluted love.
The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners, but we know love has no limit.
So with God’s help, may we nurture our faith and do good work. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN 738** **“**O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” MARYTON

1 O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me thy patience, still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

***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: Donna Eagle Joslin

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, and place it in the offering plate.

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: Bob Gambrell for adding much needed lighting outside the education building in the back. ◦

We remember in prayer: Bob Gambrell, had surgery to receive an artificial heart valve on March 7 ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ **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.

PHOTO REQUEST In preparation for the centennial celebration, we want your old pictures of the church. The older the better! Please find any photos of the church or church activities in the current chapel, Williams building, Sunderland, or before and give them to Kay Stockdale. We can scan and print them if you'd like to keep the original. Please put your name and any info you have on the back of the photo.

EMPTY BOWLS Empty Bowls is a fundraiser organized by Warren Wilson's Community Engagement Crew, it will take place March 19 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All bowls are provided by current ceramics students and you get to take your bowl home with you at the end of the evening! This year's recipient is Blunt Pretzel's Blunt Kitchen program, providing free hot meals in Swannanoa. Tickets for Empty Bowls are on sale outside of the Chapel before an after service for $25. There are also $2 raffle tickets. Cash, card, check, and Venmo accepted.

MISSION STUDY PRESENTATION Today following worship we will have a pizza lunch and hear from the Mission Study Team as they share in questions and thoughts about WWPC's future. All members and visitors are welcome!

HABITAT MOMENT FOR MISSION On March 30 **Wayne Thomas,** a future owner of Habitat for Humanity House of Faith #4, will visit us for a Moment for Mission at the start of service. We will also receive a special offering to help with materials for the house - any donation will help. Options for giving: 1) through our church website (click Give Online button - top right), 2) by check with Habitat offering written on the memo line, or 3) by Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA or check from a Donor Advised Gift Fund sent to the Church, marked Habitat Offering.

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**. In March are reading and discussing the book, Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms, by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. **All are welcome** at any time, even if you haven't read the book. Please contact Beth Meriwether at 828-777-2867 or bethmeriwether@gmail.com for more information.

SVCM Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry is in need of: small mens' jeans, mens' small/medium underwear (unopened packs), childrens' 4T-5T clothing (especially girls), queen and king sheet sets, queen and king blankets, towels, hand towels, and washcloths. Deliver to SVCM at 101 N Ridgeway Ave, Black Mountain.

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed/Sanctified Art, LLC sanctifiedart.org Bulletin Artwork: Mary & Martha by Lauren Wright Pittman,
Inspired by Luke 10:38-42 Digital painting
Artist Statement: "Growing up, I felt I had to decide whether I was a Mary or a Martha. I never identified with Martha because the culturally-prescribed roles of a woman were my weakness, and I didn't identify with Mary either because she seemed more earnest than I felt. Diving into the Greek of this text helped me work through my very well-worn opinions to find some nuance. Martha's work was not limited to cooking and cleaning; the Greek word used for her many tasks is διακονία which also means 'service, ministering, and promoting religion.' With this layered meaning in mind, it is clear to me that Jesus' response is not about Martha's ministry, but her preoccupation with Mary.
I think the most pivotal shift in translation is found in v. 42 where it is often translated, 'Mary has chosen the better part.' When you look at the Greek, however, it can also be translated as, 'a good portion' or 'a useful share.' In light of this, I believe Jesus is not offering a

value judgment between them, but assuaging Martha's worry by affirming that Mary is doing a good portion of the work too. Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, a place that was reserved for men. I wonder if Martha was concerned about what might happen to Mary for being out of 'her place.' Jesus' response is radical because he affirms she has chosen a good portion of the work, and even though she is not where she is expected to be, no one can take that away from her. Jesus protects her right to assume the position of a disciple.

"In this image, Mary eagerly reaches toward Jesus. Her clothing is patterned with mustard seeds and flowers because her faith may seem small, but her boundary-breaking faithfulness will nurture her faith to grow beyond what seems possible. Martha reaches toward Mary to pull her into more 'appropriate' work. Martha's dress is patterned with open hands to image her vital ministry of welcome, service, and cultivating space for Jesus' message to take root. I imaged Jesus equally affirming both Mary and Martha's lived-out faiths. He is green, the combination of Mary and Martha's colors (yellow + blue), showing that he embodies the integration of both faith and works." —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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!