Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

March 30, 2025



"In the last scene, (when) the elder brother learns that the brother who wasted the inheritance...has come home, he is furious. Here, he is clenching his hoe in jealousy and anger. He refuses to even look at his father who has come out to plead with him to join the celebration. This son asks why he has never received such a feast when he has obediently stayed home and worked for his father. The parable ends and it is left to our imagination whether the elder son finally turns to forgive his brother and join the party... This parable proclaims the power of abundant forgiveness and the hope that it offers for moving forward towards peace in many kinds of relationships..."

- Rev. Cara B. Hochhalter

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION Habitat for Humanity

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

Our God is a parenting God.
Our God knows us by name.
Our God will never stop yearning for us.
So if we feel lost,
then know that God is seeking us.
If we feel found,
then know that God will never leave.
This is the promise of scripture.
This is the promise of God's love.
Let us worship our with-us God.

***HYMN 22** "God of the Sparrow" ROEDER

1 God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

2 God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

3 God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

4 God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

5 God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

If God is a painter,
let us be the brush.
If God is a musician,
let us be the song.
If God is an architect,
let us be the tools.
Let us be the hands.
Let us be the builders.
But if God is a parent,
who never stops seeking,
Let us be willing to be found,
No matter how lost we feel.
Our God is never far away.
Forgive us for forgetting this good news. 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 (responsive)

Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.
But fortunately for us, our God is shepherding God who is always by our side.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace.
We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

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

FIRST LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

ANTHEM **"**O Lord Most Holy, (*Panis Angelicus*)" Cesar Franck

O Lord, most holy, O Lord most mighty,
O God of mercy, hear us, hear, O God of love.
Help us to know you, know you and love you, Savior, Savior,
grant us your truth and grace. Savior, Savior, guide and defend us.

Rule all our willful hearts. Guard all our wandering thoughts.
Lord of the broken hearted, bring your peace and joy.
Guide in temptation's hour.
Save through your mighty power.
Lord, have mercy, hear our prayer, O God.
Show your favor, Lord, we sing and give praise to you.

SECOND LESSON Luke 15:11-32

SERMON "No Disposables" Rev. Jamie Dale

***HYMN 774** "There Is Now a New Creation" STUTTGART

1 There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
peace and reconciliation
with the God of endless life.

2 Call the lost and found together;
tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever
and a new life has begun.

3 Wrap the prodigal in welcome;
run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven;
let us now be reconciled.

4 Come and join the celebration;
come and join this happy feast;
Jesus makes an invitation
to the greatest and the least.

5 There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration,
to the God of endless life!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN 547** "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" AR HYD Y NOS

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure."

3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.”

***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: Sharon Lytle
Sound/Video: Derron Daugherty
Coffee Hour Host: Daughertys

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We celebrate: much work and progress towards restoring **Andrew Tripp's** home, with gratitude for all the volunteers and professionals who are working to make that happen ◦ **Donna Eagle Joslin** has seen two different bald Eagles recently - this time, up close on her property!

We remember in prayer: Joanne Lincoln is recovering from an appendectomy on March 16 ◦ for our congregation as we proceed with selection of the Pastor Nomination Committee ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ 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** ◦ **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 through April 16, with a Good Friday service on April 18. We are leading the April 2 service! All services are at Black Mountain UMC and are followed by a community meal by Open Table.

EASTER LILIES On Easter Sunday we brighten the Chapel with Easter Lilies. You can purchase a lily for $12 and have it placed in honor or in memory of someone. Lily orders are due April 13 and can be taken home following the Easter service on April 20.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Our next newsletter is being prepared for for a Holy Week release. The deadline for submitting articles or suggestions is April 7. Please send to andrew-tripp@warren-wilson.edu.

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**. **All are welcome** at any time. Please contact Beth Meriwether at bethmeriwether@gmail.com for more information.

EASTER BRUNCH On April 20 at 9:30 we are having our Easter Brunch. Bring a breakfast dish to share and come celebrate the season with your friends! An Easter Egg hunt will follow after the church service.

PHOTO REQUEST We want your old photos of the church for the Centennial Celebration, the older the better! Please find any photos of the church or in the current chapel, Williams building, Sunderland, or before and give them to Kay Stockdale. We can scan and print them. Please put your name and any info you have on the back of the photo.

Artist's Statement Part 5:The Prodigal's Elder Brother Luke 15:25-32

The Rev. Cara B. Hochhalter is a United Church of Christ (UCC) minister. She received her Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in Minnesota, where she studied the intersections of art, theology and justice. She served the Charlemont Federated Church in Massachusetts for ten years and now lives in Hyde Park, New York.

The images in her book, A Challenging Peace in the Life and Stories of Jesus were created through the simple print-making process of carving out a block, applying ink and pulling a print. Cara says, "The interaction of light and dark is important in each image as we cannot have one without the other. The dark defines the light, and vice versa. I find this to be theological as we look to the whole—the light and the dark, the joy and the despair, the peace and the conflict —all under an umbrella of Divine Love that yearns for wholeness."

Attribution: *Hochhalter, Cara B.. Part 5 - The Prodigal's Elder Brother, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59276 [retrieved March 12, 2025]. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter. them all, between the three. The fig tree, this one, begins its leafing in the in-between. —Hannah Garrity*

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!