

love, above all.

**Warren Wilson
Presbyterian Church**

April 27, 2025

**Love Above All
Sermon Series**

- In Love, We Abide in Grace & Joy
 - In Love, We Offer Hospitality
 - In Love, We Seek Justice
 - In Love, We Call for Unity
 - In Love, We Show Compassion
 - In Love, We Strive for Humility & Gratitude
- In Love, We Seek Out, Recognize, & Share Wisdom

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

2nd Sunday of Easter
April 27, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Einsama Blumen (Lonely Flowers)” Robert Schumann
Brea Cyphert, Oboe

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

In the beginning when God created
A wind swept over the waters,
A breath warmed the dark voids, a Spirit called forth creation.
God gave in grace: Let there be light for all to see,
Let there be water for all to splash in,
Let there be life in the midst of death
Yes, let there be life beyond death.
And God invited and invites us to respond, rejoicing!
It was good,
It was awesome and awe-filled, It is very good.

***HYMN 664** “Morning Has Broken” BUNESSAN

1 Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning,
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation;
praise every morning,
God's re-creation
of the new day!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Lord, in grace you created us to live abundant lives of joy in community. Your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet we dwell on our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord.

Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our being the people you call us to be. Let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light.

(silent confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me” #582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May 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.

BAPTISM OF ALLISON CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

**Entrance of the Family “Dearest Jesus We Are Here” (choir)
Gathering**

Elder Sharon Lytle: Hear these words from Scripture:

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:4-6). In the sacrament of baptism, God’s grace becomes visible, and the church witnesses to the hope, faith, and new life found in Jesus Christ.

People: Baptism is a sign of God’s covenant of grace, our union with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, the forgiveness of sins, and our life together as God’s church. It is the sign of belonging to God and God’s church.

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini: Responding to God's steadfast love, we choose whom we will serve, turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ. In baptism, we bind ourselves to the God who is eternally with and for us, Emanuel.

People: We remember Jesus' words: "Let the little children come unto me," and welcome this child into the family of the church universal.

Presentation and Questions

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Act of Baptism

Baptismal Prayer

Meeting the Congregation "Dearest Jesus We are Here" (choir)

Elder Sharon Lytle: Allison is now received into the church universal to share in its life and ministry. Through baptism, God has made her a member of the household of God, to join with us in the family of love.

People: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Allison into the church universal and this family of faith.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 6:22-26

ANTHEM

"Alleluia, Christ is Risen!"

Arr. James Kirkby

*Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.*

*He, who on the cross a victim, for the world's salvation bled, Jesus
Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.*

*Christ is risen, we are risen! Shed upon us heavenly grace, rain and dew
and gleams of glory from the brightness of thy face.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to Go on high;
Alleluia! To the Savior who has gained the victory. Amen.*

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:1-11

SERMON

"In Love, We Abide in Grace and Joy"

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & CELTIC VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Holy One beyond all names
Eternal Wellspring
May love rise again in us today
With food for every table
Shelter for every family
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love
And free us from all falseness
That the light of our souls may shine
And the strength of our spirits endure
For Earth and all its people.
This day, tonight, and forever. Amen.*

***HYMN 300**

"We Are One in the Spirit"

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

1 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)

3 We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

***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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS If you are worshipping 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: the baptism of **Allison Anderson** ◦ **Olivia Crescitelli** and her three years of service on the Chapel Work Crew ◦ **Rodney Lytle** for the Cemetery Walk and Story Share ◦ the beginning of our **Confirmation Class** and our **Confirmands: Cadence, Evva, Hythe, Steven, and Izzy** ◦ A wonderful **Easter Brunch** thanks to the members of the **Congregational Life Committee**

We remember in prayer: **The Hamilton family** on the death **David Hamilton (brother-in-law and uncle)** ◦ **Olivia Crescitelli** on the death of her grandmother ◦ **Joanne Lincoln** with hospice at Highland Farms Healthcare Center ◦ **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** ◦ **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**

ICE CREAM SOCIAL The Ice Cream Social will be on May 4th after the church service in the Fellowship Hall and on the porch. Come for fun and to say Happy Summer to our college students! Toppings, cookies, and ice cream provided by the Congregational Life Ministry Team. All are welcome!

FAREWELL OLIVIA Also on May 4th, we will say goodbye to our College Work Crew superstar, Olivia Crescitelli. She has been on the Chapel Crew for three years, but it is time for her to graduate and move on towards her goal of earning a Master's in Museum Studies.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING There is a Called Congregational Meeting today to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

PHOTO REQUEST 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 on the back of the photo.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS In May we will read and discuss the book, Transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians, by Austen Hartke. **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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS Our Confirmation Class will meet from 9:30 – 10:30 Today, May 18, and June 1.

TOGETHER 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 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.



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!*