

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

May 4, 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

3rd Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Alex Curcio

Welcome to a time of wonder
and music that calls us home
Welcome to hear God's words that inspire and challenge
and to reminders that we are offered holy hospitality -
Hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others
leading us to fully live open minds, open hearts, open doors.
Let us worship God.

***HYMN 404** "What Is This Place" KOMT NU MET ZANG

1 What is this place, where we are meeting?
Only a house, the earth its floor.
Walls and a roof, sheltering people,
windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives
when we are gathered here,
and know our God is near.

2 Words from afar, stars that are falling.
Sparks that are sown in us like seed:
names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders
sent from the past are what we need.
We in this place remember and speak
again what we have heard:
God's free redeeming word.

3 And we accept bread at his table,
broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in this world, dying and living,
we are each other's bread and wine.
This is the place where we can receive
what we need to increase:
God's justice and God's peace.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**For the times we are afraid of the stranger,
for the times we refuse the stranger,
Lord, forgive us.**

**For the times we stereotype the stranger
as enemy, as dangerous, as inferior somehow,
Lord, forgive us.**

**For the times we are too busy trying to impress our guests—
the times we think we are being hospitable,
but instead serve only our own needs—
Lord, forgive us.**

**For the times we miss the gift of the stranger, for the times we close our door in fear, for the times we miss your face in the other,
Lord, have mercy. Forgive us.**

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON Luke 24:13-35

ANTHEM "Let Us Make A Joyful Noise" (Psalms 95 &147)
Paul Sjolund

*O come, let us sing unto the Lord;
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation,
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise unto to him with psalms.*

*O come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker:
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his Hand.*

Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and judges of earth,
Both young men and maidens,
Old men and children come, and sing: O come, let us sing unto the Lord.

SECOND LESSON Hebrews 13:1-2

SERMON "In Love, We Offer Hospitality"
Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***HYMN 769** "For Everyone Born" FOR EVERYONE BORN

1 For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

2 For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair, (Refrain)

3 For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong, (Refrain)

4 For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live, (Refrain)

5 For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, (Refrain)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Words of Institution
Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer – Celtic Version

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.

Invitation to the Table
Receiving the Bread and Cup
Prayer

***HYMN 697** "Take My Life" HENDON

1 Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my sliver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

***CHARGE & 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

Liturgist: Alex Curcio
Elder of the Day: Natalie Daugherty

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: with our students, the end of the Warren Wilson school year ◦ **Olivia Crescitelli** and her three years of service on the Chapel Work Crew ◦ **Our Confirmation Class: Cadence, Evva, Hythe, Steven, and Izzy**

We remember in prayer: Tommy Eller now doing well at daughter's home after a stay at the hospital this past week ◦ **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 After today's service we are having an Ice Cream Social 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!

OLIVIA CRESCITELLI - THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!! Today at the beginning of worship, we will recognize our Chapel Crew member, Olivia Crescitelli, who has been with us at Warren Wilson Presbyterian for the past 3 years. Olivia will be graduating on May 10th with a Bachelor's in Archaeology. Her capstone research is on an archaeological site called Boyd Cabin and focused on the children that lived in the household. Boyd Cabin is an African American heritage site and Olivia stated, "I am honored to work on the site for the living descendants of Mr. Boyd." After graduation, Oliva plans to pursue a Master's degree in Museum Studies to pursue her passion for artifact conservation. Make sure to take a moment today before, during, or following worship to thank Olivia and wish her well.

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.

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 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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS Our Confirmation Class will meet from
9:30 – 10:30 on May 18 and June 1 with Pastor Laurie. They are also meeting with their mentors along the way.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS In May we will read and discuss, Transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians, by Austen Hartke. **All are welcome** any time, even if you haven't read the book. Contact Beth Meriwether at bethmeriwether@gmail.com for more information.

PNC TRAINING The Pastor Nominating Committee Training will be held after worship on Sunday, May 18.

TINY HOUSE DEDICATION Please join Warren Wilson College for a dedication of their student-built, energy efficient tiny home. This event is happening on May 5 at 1:00 at the Farm.

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!