

love, above all.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

May 11, 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

4th Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Chrisann Ohler

At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kingdom of God is revealed.

At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kingdom of God is revealed.

At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst, the kingdom of God is revealed.

***HYMN 15**

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O brother fire, so warm and bright,
chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds such blessings on our way,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**You give us prophets, holy God,
to cry out for justice and mercy.
Open our ears to hear them,
and to follow the truth they speak,
lest we support injustice to secure our own well-being.
Give prophets the fire of your Word, but love as well.
Though they speak for you,
may they know that they stand with us before you,
and have no Messiah other than your Son.
Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.**

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 (unison)

prayer by James Weldon Johnson

O Lord, we come this morning knee-bowed and body-bent before thy throne of grace. O Lord – this morning – bow our hearts beneath our knees, and our knees in some lonesome valley. We come this morning like empty pitchers to a full fountain, with no merits of our own. O Lord, open up a window of heaven, and lean out far over the battlements of glory, and listen this morning. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 25:31-40 (The Inclusive Bible)

ANTHEM

“Awake, My Heart”

Jane M, Marshall

*Awake, my heart and render To God thy sure defender,
Thy Maker, thy preserver. A song of love and fervor.*

*Confirm my deeds and guide me: My day with thee beside,
Beginning, middle, ending, Will all be upward tending.*

*My heart shall be thy dwelling, With joy and gladness swelling;
Thy Word my nurture, thy word my nurture given
To bring me on toward heaven.*

*Awake, my heart and render To God thy sure defender,
Thy Maker, thy preserver. A song of love and fervor.*

SECOND LESSON

Micah 6:1-8

SERMON

“In Love, We Seek Justice”

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

*HYMN 757

”Today, We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

KINGSFOLD

1 Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,
make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.

2 God made the world and at its birth
ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud;
we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
that threatens all of life.

3 Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.

4 May we in service to our God
act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.

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

*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 749** "Come! Live in the Light!"

WE ARE CALLED

1 Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.

Refrain:

We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

2 Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called
to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence
will be no more. (Refrain)

3 Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love. (Refrain)

***CHARGE & BLESSING**

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: Chrisann Ohler
Elder of the Day: Leslie Sayyar
Sound/Video: Jim Storey
Coffee Hour Host: Natalie Daugherty

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: 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: the family of Joanne Lincoln after her death on May 7 ◦ **Eloise and Ken Murchison's daughter, Kathryn**, recovering from surgery ◦ **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 ◦ **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**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED There are many ways to help on Sundays:

Greeters will welcome worshipers, offer bulletins and other worship resources to guests, and assist with a brief after-service cleanup of bulletins and hymnals.

Liturgists typically lead the Call to Worship, offer the Prayer for Illumination and the First Reading, and lead the Affirmation of Faith. All texts are supplied to readers.

Coffee-Hour Hosts make coffee (provided by the church) and put out snacks, juice, and water. (Hosts may choose to use snacks available at the church or bring refreshments to share). Hosts have access to the parlor kitchen for clean up. Susan Daugherty and members of the Congregational Life Team are available to answer questions or provide assistance.

Sound/Video if you would like to help run the sound and/or livestream, please see today's operator or contact the church office.

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.

NAMETAGS As we seek to be a community of welcome, you are encouraged to wear your nametag. If you are in need of one, please write your name on the list in the narthex or contact the church office.

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



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092

www.warrenwilsonchurch.org



WarrenWilsonPC



WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch



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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!*