love, above all.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

May 18, 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

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
5th Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Barbara Griswold

We gather to worship together,
Different people, different lives, different histories,
Yet all children of the same Parent,
Created lovingly by the Source of all life!
We gather to reconnect with one another,
Different people, different lives, different histories,
Yet all disciples of one Teacher.
Jesus, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.
We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears….
Different people, different lives, different histories,
Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism.
Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us, among us, and through us.

***HYMN 754** "Help Us Accept Each Other" BARONITA

1 Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted,
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness,
and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us; make us one!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ.
We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our hearts than to receive those who don't look like we look, talk like we talk, live like we live. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and love above all.

We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do.
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 Psalm 133

ANTHEM "Lord Of The Dance A Maine

Shaker Hymn by Elder Joseph Brackett, Arr: John Ferguson

I danced in the Morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance then wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they wouldn't dance, and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on. (Refrain)

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame"
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And left me there on a cross to die (Refrain)

I dance on a Friday when the sky turned black,
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back,
They buried my body and they thought I'd, gone.
But! I am the dance and I still go on.
They cut me down and I lept up high: I am the life that"ll never never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me. I am the Lord of the "Dance", said he!

SECOND LESSON Ephesians 4:1-6

SERMON "In Love, We Call For Unity"

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***HYMN 756** ”O God of Every Nation” LLANGLOFFAN

1 O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.

2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.

3 Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.

4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

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 767** ”Together We Serve” SAN ANSELMO

1 Together we serve,
united by love,
inviting God’s world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
extending God’s love to the last and the least.

2 We seek to become
a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

3 We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,
the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home
to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

4 Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve
in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.

***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: Barbara Griswold
Elder of the Day: Sharon Lytle
Sound/Video: Jim Storey
Coffee Hour Host: Sally Broughton

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: the family of Joanne Lincoln after her death on May 7 ◦ **Eloise and Ken Murchison's daughter, Kathryn,** recovering from surgery ◦ **Tommy Eller** now recovering at home ◦ **The Hamilton family** on the death **David Hamilton (brother-in-law and uncle)** ◦ **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.

NEWSLETTER The Summer Newsletter deadline is May 30. If you have anything to contribute or suggestions for content, please have it to the church office by then.

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 today and on 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 is today after worship.

JOANNE LINCOLN MEMORIAL A celebration of life for Joanne Lincoln will be at Warren Wilson Presbyterian at 2:00 on June 7.



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org







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!