love, above all.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

May 25, 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
6th Sunday of Easter
May 25, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Pat Hardy

We are called here this morning to learn of Christ's healing love.
Help us, O Lord, to learn your lessons of compassion.
Every day there are many ways in which we can offer help to others.
Help us, O Lord, to be ready to reach out to all in need.
Come, let us worship the One who prepares us for service.
Let us sing our songs of praise to the One who has healed us.

***HYMN 14** "For the Beauty of the Earth" DIX

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)

5 For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, we confess that sometimes we do not want to allow others into our lives: people who need us, even people we need.
God, we confess that we need you to come again into our lives and relationships, to bring us close to you, to show us your love, so that we might become more and more like you, showing compassion for all.
God, we confess that we need you to remind us what it means to live into your mandate for Love Above All.

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 Matthew 7:7-12

ANTHEM "There In God's Garden" SHADES MOUNTAIN
Hymn #226 (Arr. K. Lee Scott)

Stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4: Sung by Choir;
Congregation is invited to hear the story and learn the tune.
Stanzas 5, 6:
Congregation joins in singing the grand culmination of the hymn.

SECOND LESSON Colossians 3:12-17

SERMON "In Love, We Show Compassion"
Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Bridge Over Troubled Waters"
Paul Simon

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 306** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" DENNIS

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2 Before our *Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes;
our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

***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: Pat Hardy
Elder of the Day: Jim Storey
Sound/Video: Derron Daugherty
Coffee Hour Host: Anne Dale

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: The Warren Wilson Presbyterian Chapel Choir under the direction of **Ted Stewart** ◦ **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 ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ all who continue to be affected by loss caused by Hurricane Helene. In our congregation, we remember especially **Andrew Tripp, Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle,** 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** ◦ **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 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.

WWPC CHAPEL CHOIR takes a sabbatical in the summer. Today is their last Sunday in the choir loft. We look forward to choir members singing beside us in the pews and their return at the end of the summer!

COOKIE DONATIONS There are two receptions happening soon and so we are asking for donations of cookies. Please bring them by the church or talk to Susan Daugherty. Thank you!

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JOANNE LINCOLN MEMORIAL A celebration of life for Joanne "JoJo" Lincoln will be on June 7, with an Ash Garden service at 1:00 at the Warren Wilson Cemetery on Dillingham Circle and a Memorial Service at 2:00 in the Warren Wilson Chapel. The family requests that you wear bright clothes. A reception will follow in the narthex parlor. All are welcome to either or both services.

Bridge Over Troubled Water
by Paul Simon

When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all
I'm on your side, oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

When you're down and out, when you're on the street
When evening falls so hard, I'll comfort you,
I'll take your part oh, when darkness comes, and pain is all around
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

Sail on, silver girl, sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way
See how they shine, oh, if you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will ease your mind



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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!