

Warren Wilson

Presbyterian Church

August 3, 2025



EXODUS 1:8-21 – A POEM BY DENG LI-XIN

I would love to
be an upstanding citizen,
do what the law says.
Usually, I do.
I would love to
submit to authority,
obey my rulers.
Usually, I do.
But I cannot, now.
For how can I obey
the laws of man
if they would have me break
the Law of God?
Don't you see
the death all around you?
No - you only see the law.
Don't you hear
the piercing cries of bereft mothers?
No - you only hear the law.
Don't you care
for the vulnerable trampled underfoot?
No - you only care about the law.
How
can you value something dead
above pulsing, screaming life?
How
can you expect me,
a servant of life
to obey the rule of death?
I will be right.

Sorry.
No.
I don't care anymore.
Take me.
Put me behind bars if you will.
Do what you like.
But don't speak to me
about your laws
when lives are at stake.
Don't expect me
to do what is wrong
just because it's the law.
For how can I obey
the laws of man
if they would have me break
the Law of God?
I will resist.
I will tell lies.
I will disobey.
I will fight.
And you may look on
in horror and disgust
as I trample your law.
But in the end,
in the eyes of God

-Deng Li-Xin, 2019

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

8th Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "We Come to the Hungry Feast" arr. Mark Sedio

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) based on Exodus 1:8-2:10
Sally Broughton

Here, there is a God who labors.

Here, there is a chosen people who labors.

Here, there is one bringing forth life who labors.

**Here, there is one making a basket
which will carry life who labors.**

Here, there are reeds in the water, a basket among the reeds,
a baby in the basket.

Come, let us see what we may find.

Come, let us worship together.

***HYMN 175** "Seek Ye First" LAFFERTY

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

3 You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

For the times we have not recognized that our suffering, our toiling as we suffer, may still produce new life. Lord, have mercy. For the times we have been too preoccupied to be willing to wade into the unknown, to receive the gifts you've placed alongside and among our struggles, and to open our lives to one another. Lord, have mercy. The truth is, we do not recognize the baby in the basket, the provision, the blessing, the faith. We cannot see past the bricks to be made from mud and straw, the death and sickness and trials we and our loved ones face every day. We have made ourselves unable to hear those among us calling us to something higher, something better: the midwives rescuing Hebrew babies, the mother weaving a basket, the God guiding the basket into the reeds. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS

“From All The Dwell Below the Skies”

#327

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

from the Sarasota Statement of NEXT Church PCUSA

We, as people of faith, trust that God's transforming Word continuously meets us anew, and so we seek silence for reflecting, discerning, and imagining the Kingdom of God. In our silence, we listen for the stories of those whose cries for justice we have disregarded and whose expressions of faith we have refused to hear. We grieve the ways our silence indulges cowardice, justifies irresponsibility, and promotes fear in the face of injustice. Such silence leaves room for falsehood and complacency to choke out truth and compassion. As those being made new, we partner with Christ in bringing the Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. We insist on the truth and we strive against systemic injustice. We follow Jesus who stands with and for those who are unjustly marginalized and oppressed and calls us to do the same without hesitation. We decry any attempt to co-opt the gospel for purposes of excluding those whom Jesus sought, welcomed, and made his own.

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 16:24-28

SECOND LESSON

Exodus 1:8-2:10

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

*HYMN 503

“Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”
O QUANTA QUALIA

1 Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
ours, a commitment we know never ends.

2 Here, at your table, confirm our intention;
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.

3 When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed and our courage restored,
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Words of Institution
Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.*

Invitation to the Table
Receiving the Bread and Cup
Prayer

*HYMN 832

“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand”
KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA

Refrain:

Here on Jesus Christ I will stand.
He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life.

1 There's no other place I can hide
till the storm that rages subsides.
My voice cries to God from the flood,
and I'm saved because of his blood. (Refrain)

2 It is not the work of my hands
that has washed away all my sins.
I'm redeemed, and all of my days,
Jesus Christ will be my heart's praise. (Refrain)

3 When my days on this earth are done,
and I stand at God's holy throne,
my heart will not have any fear;
in Christ's righteousness I am here. (Refrain)

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Chaconne"

Louis Couperin

*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: Sally Broughton
Elder of the Day: Leslie Sayyar
Coffee Hour Host: Susan 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: Andrew Tripp being back home after rebuilding his house following Helene ◦ **All in our Congregation** that are out and about this summer and we pray for safe travel ◦ that our Chapel is being used for so much exciting music this month

We remember in prayer: The Daugherty family on the death of **Naomi Daugherty, July 5** ◦ Blessings for **the family of Margaret Rada**. There will be a service of remembrance today at 3:00 pm in Anderson Auditorium in Montreat ◦ For healing and encouragement for **Jackie Cole** ◦ **Brooks Joslin, Blake's father**, as he is put on Hospice care ◦ **Arden Starnes, her family, and her caregivers** ◦ all who continue to be affected by loss caused by Hurricane Helene. In our congregation, we remember **Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle, and Bob, the father of Natalie's partner Jeff** ◦ **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**

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME We have several items in the office area which are going to be donated unless anyone in the congregation has need of them:

- 2 Little Tykes play sets next to office area (not from the playground)
- 1 dark wood coffee table
- 1 CD rack
- 1 small TV table and TV (currently in the Fellowship Hall)
- 1 whiteboard

FRIENDS MEETING WORKSHOPS The Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting, that meets weekly in our Fellowship Hall, is hosting a series of three workshops designed to prepare all participants to build a strong, sensitive, and healing allyship with our Native American neighbors. They are happening on August 17 at 3:30, August 19 at 5:30, and September 21 at 3:30. All will be in the Fellowship Hall and all are free (though you're encouraged to register for the one on 8/17). More information is available on flyers in the narthex.

GUEST PREACHER AUGUST 17 Dr. April Love-Fordham spent two decades in the corporate world—serving as a tech advisor to both the George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations and leading award-winning engineering teams—before leaving it all to follow a deeper call. Now an itinerant pastor, author, and joyful troublemaker for love and justice, she writes the Disorderly Parable Bible Studies and lives in the Asheville mountains with her husband Steve and their blue Great Dane, Molli-Pop. She formerly served on the Faith Relations Board at Warren Wilson College, where her son, Kit Fordham, is a proud graduate.

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.

Cover image painted on a wall at the Synagogue Dura Europos, in modern Syria (color retouched)

Summer Stories from the Old Testament

This summer, we will be looking at some stories from the Old Testament. It will just be a sampler of the many, many Old Testament stories and people. These are stories for the early Hebrews/Israelites and they are our stories. We will bounce around a bit, as we consider:

- * what rings true still today
- * what is rooted in ancient context,
- * what we have yet to learn as we remind ourselves of our rootedness,
- * what these stories teach us about God,
- * where these stories point forward to Jesus,
- * and how the Spirit can be seen swirling around.....

July 13	Abraham (and Sarah)
July 20	Esau
July 27	Joseph
August 3	Shiphrah and Puah
August 10	Ruth
August 17	Song of Solomon
August 24	Jeremiah
August 31	Elijah



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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!*