

# Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

September 21, 2025



A Mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing.  
Our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
doth seek to work us woe.  
His craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

- (Martin Luther, 1529)

# Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 21, 2025 11:00 AM

## GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Cadence Cowal

PRELUDE

“Variations on 'Austria'”

Franz J. Haydn

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Psalm 79, Jeremiah 8, Luke 16)

Dennis Stockdale

O God, we come into your courts  
with praise and thanksgiving!

**We come in celebration and song.**

We come in gratitude of your inheritance.

**We come as those who have received blessing  
upon blessing.**

We hear the cry of the poor in the land,  
and ache for the needs of all to be met.

**We come with prayers for blessing upon blessing,  
in Jesus' name.**

O God, we come into your courts  
with praise and thanksgiving!

**We come in celebration and song.**

**\*HYMN 269**

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

LANCASHIRE

1 Lead on, O King eternal!  
The day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest  
your tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation  
your grace has made us strong,  
and now, O King eternal,  
we lift our battle song.

2 Lead on, O King eternal,  
till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper  
the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords' loud clashing,  
nor roll of stirring drums;  
with deeds of love and mercy  
the heavenly kingdom comes.

3 Lead on, O King eternal:  
we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning  
where'er your face appears;  
your cross is lifted o'er us;  
we journey in its light.  
The crown awaits the conquest;  
lead on, O God of might!

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

(Psalm 79, Jeremiah 8, 1 Timothy 2, Luke 16)

**We confess that we want the quick fixes of this world which are so much more pleasant, leaving us free to go back to our usual routines.**

**But your slow healing is powerful.**

**And if we allow it, it will remake and renew our lives.**

**It will reorient us to you and to you alone.**

**Turn us toward your love for justice and true worship.**

**Forgive our sins, for which you weep.**

**Forgive our hesitation.**

**Grant us courage to choose you as our physician,  
and to serve you and you alone. Amen**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

### **\*RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS**

"Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand" #832

***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.***

***There's no other place I can hide til the storm that rages subsides.  
I'm redeemed, and all of my days, Jesus Christ will be my heart's  
praise.***

***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.***

## **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 12:1-3, 13-21

### **SECOND LESSON**

Luke 16:1-13b

## BONUS LESSON

1 Timothy 2:1-4

### SERMON

“Name Greed & Deception”

Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

### \*HYMN 720

”Jesus Calls Us”

GALILEE

1 Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth  
saying, "Christian, follow me."

2 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."

3 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

4 Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thy obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.

### 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.*

### \*HYMN 372

“O, for a World”

AZMON

1 O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.

2 O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.

3 We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.

4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong;  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.

5 O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.

### **\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

"Short Preludes in C Major: BWV 939, 924"

J.S. Bach

\*Please rise in body and/or spirit

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Laurie Furr-Vancini, Transitional Pastor

Ted Stewart, Director of Music

Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator

Leslie Sayyar and Brent Roberts, Treasurers

Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

**Elder of the Day:** Don Collins

**Fellowship Time:** Anne Dale

**Liturgist:** Dennis Stockdale

### **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 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.

**COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS:** If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office.

**We celebrate:** Wonderful progress being made with the Chapel staining ° Celebrating glorious weather, inviting us to open windows and spend time outdoors as the seasons transition.

**We remember in prayer:** **Peggy Rada**, who is now in skilled care nursing and for her husband, **Heath Rada**, a former moderator of the general assembly. They live at Highland Farms. ° **The Pastor Nominating Committee** as they begin interviews. ° **Dennis Riley's friend, Carlin**, who is unhoused and facing chronic health conditions. ° **Mary Craig** recuperating at home.

**GUEST PIANIST** We are delighted to welcome back today's guest musician, Dr. Eunice Wonderly Stackhouse. Dr. Stackhouse has piano degrees from Grace College, Indiana University, and U of Kansas. She retired from 23 years at Montreat College, and is now a private piano instructor in Black Mountain. She has performed many classical recitals as well as countless services and ceremonies in numerous states.

**SVCM COLLECTION** The Community Engagement Ministry of WWPC has been made aware of a shortage of items that cannot be purchased with SNAP/food stamps that are needed at SVCM. Through November we will be collecting toilet paper, laundry soap, paper towels, shampoo, and other general personal care items. Items will be collected in our Narthex and delivered to SVCM at the end of November.

**MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES** Both the Chapel Choir and the Handbell Choir are back for the fall and both would love to have you join! If you are interested, join an upcoming rehearsal and see all the fun you've been missing! Handbells are Wednesdays at 6:00 in the Adult Classroom of the Fellowship Hall. Choir is in the Choir Loft Wednesdays at 7:00.

**TOGATHER** “Come, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest,” Matthew 11:28 - Jesus invites us to come to him and to come together to share our burdens and find rest. You are invited to join the Togather Group, meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:30 in the church parlor for a time of sharing, contemplation, and prayer. Please note Together will NOT be meeting 9/23 or 10/28.

**HURRICANE REMEMBRANCES** There are multiple events happening in our community to mark the anniversary of Hurricane Helene. Here are a few:

- The Blue Ridge Orchestra is hosting a concert in our Chapel on September 27 at 3:00 entitled *Post-Helene: Remembering, Rebuilding, Reimagining* More information at [blueridgeorchestra.org](http://blueridgeorchestra.org)
- The Center for Conscious Living & Dying is hosting an event in the Chapel on September 26 from 5:30-9 called “Remembering Helene” - an evening of ritual and reflection, story and song. There is a community meal followed by the service. All are welcome. More information at <https://www.cclcd.community/events-1/hurricane-helene-wnc-community-remembrance>
- On September 27 at 3:00, Black Mountain Presbyterian is marking the anniversary with a climate change and social justice symposium. For free tickets and more information, email [earthcare@bmpcnc.org](mailto:earthcare@bmpcnc.org).
- On September 24 from 5:30-8 PM WWC is presenting “Out of Chaos into Community: Healing Ourselves and All of Creation”. Featuring two extraordinary voices of justice and healing: Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu and Mungi Ngomane. Together, they’ll explore how we move through chaos toward collective healing - for ourselves, our communities, and our planet. This event is free and open to the public with dinner to follow. RSVP required.

**IMMIGRATION LECTURE** On September 29 at 7:00 there will be a lecture from Dr. Stephanie Madison entitled “Immigration: Opportunities for Mission”. Stephanie is a professor at Clemson University and a volunteer at EL REFUGIO, a hospitality house serving the families of detainees at the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA. She’ll provide some context for the current practice of detaining people and how our churches might offer support to detainees and their families. The event is happening at the Walkup Building, Community Circle, Montreat, NC. Please bring donations of new adult underwear, socks, and backpacks.

**HOMECOMING SERVICE & POTLUCK** October 5<sup>th</sup> is the Homecoming worship service followed by a Potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. If you know what dish you'll be bringing, please sign up in the narthex. And of course all are welcome!!

Cover: Grotesque from the National Cathedral, Washington DC

## What To Do in Middle Times: Guidance from the Middle of Luke

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| September 14        | Receive Grace                     |
| <b>September 21</b> | <b>Name Greed and Deception</b>   |
| September 28        | Guard Against Deadening           |
| October 5           | Homecoming Worship                |
| October 12          | Share in Healing                  |
| October 19          | Persist in Justice                |
| October 26          | Become Advocates                  |
| November 2          | Partner in Restoration            |
| November 9          | Reinterpret Truth                 |
| November 16         | Stand Firm: The Future is Calling |
| November 23         | Worship Together                  |



**Warren Wilson**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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[www.warrenwilsonchurch.org](http://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!*