

# WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## CHRIST THE KING

A SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

NOVEMBER 20, 2022 10:30AM

## Grace Notes

**Welcome to WHPC!** If you are visiting us today, we are so glad you joined us for worship. If you have not already, please take a moment to record your contact information on the visitor card you will find in the pew and drop it in the offering box or hand it to a greeter at the door. We are always glad to share the great things happening at WHPC!

If you are looking for a new church home and would like to join in fellowship with Westover Hills, please join us in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) and we will gladly share more about life at WHPC or, if you are ready, receive you into membership.

Childcare is available in the nursery. Please check with a greeter.

# WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

*\*Indicates the congregation is invited to stand.*

**Bold text** indicates unison readings.

### WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE

*"Crown Him With Many Crowns"*

David Austin, Music Director

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Adrienne Kulousek, Liturgist

As Sarah waited...Ninety years for a son to fulfill God's promise.

**We wait in hope for what we thought had been spoken to us.**

As Moses waited...40 years in the desert,  
being prepared by God to lead his people.

**We wait for emptiness and humility;  
for bravado to wither.**

As Israel waited...40 years of wandering,  
hungry, depressed, thirsting, unsure.

**We wait for the right time to act.**

As the Prophets waited...1000 years of promises  
that God would raise up a Saviour.

**We wait for the signs that God has not forgotten.**

As Mary waited...9 months of her 14 years for the child of God.

**We feel the birth-pains, yet fear for the child.**

As John the Baptist waited...  
Scanning the crowds for the one whose sandals  
he would not be worthy to untie.

**We long for an experience of the Divine.**

As Jesus waited... 30 years of creeping time.

40 days in the desert of temptation.

3 years of misunderstanding.

3 days in the depths of hell.

**So we wait for God's time.**

**Preparing the way.**

**Our turn to toil on leveling mountains  
and straightening paths.**

**Our turn to watch the horizon.**

**Our turn to pass on the hope**

**that He who promised is faithful and will come back.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE #150 *"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"*

MADRID

## Grace Notes

There are many names for God. In the book of Exodus the Lord reveals the holy name to Moses when God says, "I am who I am." Yet there are many other names and descriptors we use to call upon God.

This prayer refers to God as "Comfort of the lost." As we pray and worship together today, be mindful of the names you use when praying and speaking to God. What words or monikers for the divine bring you comfort?

## CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us.

Together let us confess our sins against God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION. (in unison)

**You call us home to live with you, Comfort of the lost, but we are too busy right now to listen. To seek the best prices, we flock to stores run by temptation and seduction. We rush to judge everyone around us, but ask you to be more patient with our repeated errors. We feast at the table piled high with broken promises and drink from the cup of fading dreams.**

**Yet you continue to cry out to us, Broken Heart, speaking to us of your love. Forgiveness is the gift for every moment, not just one day; hope is our constant companion as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who is your Messenger of mercy.**

*Silence is kept*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

## SUNG RESPONSE

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

## Grace Notes

**Respectful of individual preferences** concerning contact, please extend either a hand or a gesture of peace to your neighbors.

**Hezekiah** is regarded as one of the great kings of the Old Testament. In both Second Kings and Second Chronicles he is mentioned as one of the most important kings of Judah.

During his reign he saw the 722 BCE destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel by Sargon and in 701 BCE the siege of Jerusalem by Sennacherib.

He is remembered for his religious reforms which included a strict mandate that only YHWH be worshiped and venerated. His faithfulness gave him a reputation of righteousness among the kings of Israel and Judah.

The Lachish relief in the British Museum depicts the battle of Lachish showing the calvary of Sennacherib in action.



Detail from Lachish Relief

## †THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20, 37:1-7, 2:1-4

*Assyria's King Sennacherib marched against all of Judah's fortified cities and captured them in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah. Assyria's king sent his field commander from Lachish, together with a large army, to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. He stood at the water channel of the Upper Pool, which is on the road to the field where clothes are washed. Hilkiah's son Eliakim, who was the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Asaph's son Joah the recorder went out to them.*

*Then the field commander stood up and shouted in Hebrew at the top of his voice: "Listen to the message of the great king, Assyria's king. The king says this: Don't let Hezekiah lie to you. He won't be able to rescue you. Don't let Hezekiah persuade you to trust the LORD by saying, 'The LORD will certainly rescue us. This city won't be handed over to Assyria's king.'*

*"Don't listen to Hezekiah, because this is what Assyria's king says: Surrender to me and come out. Then each of you will eat from your own vine and fig tree and drink water from your own well until I come to take you to a land just like your land. It will be a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards. Don't let Hezekiah fool you by saying, 'The LORD will rescue us.' Did any of the other gods of the nations save their lands from the power of Assyria's king? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Did they rescue Samaria from my power? Which one of the gods from those countries has rescued their land from my power? Will the LORD save Jerusalem from my power?"*

*When King Hezekiah heard this, he ripped his clothes, covered himself with mourning clothes, and went to the LORD's temple. He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests to the prophet Isaiah, Amoz's son. They were all wearing mourning clothes. They said to him, "Hezekiah says this: Today is a day of distress, punishment, and humiliation. It's as if children are ready to be born, but there's no strength to see it through. Perhaps the LORD your God heard all the words of the field commander who was sent by his master, Assyria's king. He insulted the living God! Perhaps he will punish him for the words that the LORD your God has heard. Offer up a prayer for those few people who still survive."*

*When King Hezekiah's servants got to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say this to your master: The LORD says this: Don't be afraid at the words you heard, which the officers of Assyria's king have used to insult me. I'm about to mislead him, so when he hears a rumor, he'll go back to his own country. Then I'll have him cut down by the sword in his own land."*

*This is what Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

*In the days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
will be the highest of the mountains.*

*It will be lifted above the hills;  
peoples will stream to it.*

*Many nations will go and say,  
"Come, let's go up to the Lord's mountain,  
to the house of Jacob's God  
so that he may teach us his ways  
and we may walk in God's paths."*

## Grace Notes

A new element in the bulletin each week is the Question at Stake. This is a snapshot of the question or questions that helped guide Pastor Robert in preparing for the day's sermon. They may also provide some fruit for further thought during the week.

*Instruction will come from Zion;  
the Lord's word from Jerusalem.  
God will judge between the nations,  
and settle disputes of mighty nations.  
Then they will beat their swords into iron plows  
and their spears into pruning tools.  
Nation will not take up sword against nation;  
they will no longer learn how to make war.*

SERMON

“Reaping What We Sow”

Dr. Lowry

QUESTION AT STAKE

*What does it mean to take the prophet's words seriously today? Is the promise of Isaiah just a promise of a future without war or is there more at stake in the here and now for us in this text?*

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE #434

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

KINGSFOLD

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
To reconcile and make new,  
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
To celebrate God's presence,  
To live with respect in Creation,  
To love and serve others,  
To seek justice and resist evil,  
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
Our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Thanksgiving

arr.by Craig Curry

(A Medley of Hymns)

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Raise the song of harvest home!  
Come ye thankful people come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.*

## Grace Notes

The Presbyterian Church (USA) practices “open communion” which simply means that all who wish to share in the meal are welcome to come to the table. So, come, taste, and see that the Lord is indeed good!

Elders will be in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) following worship if you would like to learn more about WHPC or if you are ready to join as part of the congregation.

*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices you alleluias raise.  
By Him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Sing to the Lord an alleluia!*

**(Congregation please stand and join in singing)**

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love; and still is ours today; Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SURSUM CHORDA

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

†PARTING HYMN #155 “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” DARWALL'S 148TH

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” Arr. by Todd Kendall

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## WORSHIP NOTES

**WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY** Pastor Robert Lowry, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist Adrienne Kulousek, and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

**THE ART ON THE BULLETIN COVER** “Swords into Plowshares” by Sebastian Rottmair. The statue stands in the garden of the United Nations and was a gift in the early 1950’s from the Eastern European Group of Nations.

## THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make the Alternative Christmas Market a success. Thanks especially to Nancy Passini for serving as the chief champion of the sale and making sure it went off without a hitch!



**STEWARDSHIP PACKETS FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD ARE AVAILABLE** outside the sanctuary. One packet is addressed to each household. Please feel free to pick yours up this morning and save the church a little postage!

**STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY** is November 27. Be on the lookout for detailed information on stewardship and the 2023 budget for our ministries at WHPC.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

If you will be traveling, prayers for safe travels and travelling mercies. If you are hosting, prayers for many hands to make light work. If you are taking a break from the holiday, prayers for peace. Wherever you are and whomever you are with, the church staff sends our prayers for a blessed Thanksgiving to you all!



**WESTOVER HILLS WILL WORSHIP JOINTLY ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS DAY** with both Grace Presbyterian Church and Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church. Worship will be held at Westover on Christmas Morning at 10:30 and at Grace on New Years Day at 10:30.

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE** is available year round. Presbyterian Women make fair trade products available to the congregation not as a moneymaker but as one of our missions. The price we pay for coffee is the price we charge. Purchasing fair trade coffee helps more money reach the hard-working farmers. Contact Carolyn Nash with questions or to purchase coffee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE BULLETIN** may be emailed to the office at [office.westoverhills@gmail.com](mailto:office.westoverhills@gmail.com) To ensure their inclusion in the Sunday bulletin, please send any announcements **by 5pm on Wednesday**.

**UPDATES TO THE PRAYER LIST** should be sent to the office and copied to Liz Branch and Robert.

**CALENDAR UPDATES AND SESSION DOCUMENTS** should be sent to the office and copied to Candice Misenheimer.

## PASTORAL CARE

**PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS** these members and friends of Westover Hills Presbyterian: Rev. David Schaller (brother of Marcey Berry - ankle surgery); Susan Mauney (health issues); Ralph Cotham (recovering at home); Suzanne Carroll (mother of Tammy Miller – recovery from a fall); Kade (awaiting test results - Pastor Robert Lowry and Brian Smith’s four-year-old great-nephew); Elizabeth Borgman (cancer – step-daughter of Kay Stephens’s sister, Ginger Borgman); Laura Whitmore (broken leg and ankle); Vivianna McAtee; Ulysses Neyland (back injury); Jane Estes (Long haul Covid); Chriztina and the people of Ukraine (Ukraine collaborator with WHPC PW on 2013 water project; has moved to Hungary for safety) - for assurance of God’s presence; Ljubica and Stanislav Radovic (volleyball coach Tanja Eckart’s parents, who live in Croatia - anxiety over nearby war); Christiana Esem-Kuwong’s family in war torn Cameroon; Andrea Campbell; TLC (at home) members; Church staff: Pastor Robert, Ulysses, David, Tammy and Shawn; Preschool kids, families & staff; The people of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central America, Puerto Rico and Haiti; Victims of hurricanes in Florida and the Carolinas, Central America, Cuba and Puerto Rico.

**DEACONS FOR NOVEMBER** are Rosemary McGinnis and Carolyn Nash.

## CALENDAR

The church calendar is available on the website

(scan QR code to be directed to our website)

**WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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