


WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



**Forgiveness
says you are
given another
chance to
make a new
beginning.**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

FIRST SUNDAY OF LEPT

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 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 "Sonata Opus 31 #3" Ludwig Van Beethoven

Thomas Sinclair

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist, Adrienne Kulousek

Come, children of God, rejoice in your Maker!

Sing songs and hymns, old and new; celebrate with voices and instruments, with praise and prayers!

Open your eyes to the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ.

For God is already here, among us and within us, bringing new life to all who believe.

Let's praise God together!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of the church,
you call a broken people
around your table:
in times of disagreement
teach us to listen,
loose us from prejudice
and bind us to your way
of forgiving grace;
through Jesus Christ, who stands at the heart of our gathering. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #85 "What Wondrous Love Is This?" WONDROUS LOVE

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)

Merciful God,
You call us to turn away from behaviors and attitudes that belong to the darkness, to live honest and transparent lives as children of the light.
We confess the times when we have failed,
giving in to our darker thoughts and desires;

Grace Notes

In the ancient church, the season of Lent was a season of preparation for baptism on Easter. Today, we celebrate baptism all during the Christian year. Still, Lent can be a good time to focus on growing in our spirituality.

The prayer of confession today is written as a series of petitions seeking God's teaching in Christ to shape us into more faithful disciples.

The tune, "Wayfaring Stranger," is a popular 19th century gospel melody. Originally telling the plaintive tale of a soul on the journey through life, the tune has been used prolifically.

and acting in ways that did not bring honor to Your name.

Lord, in Your mercy,

forgive us.

Teach us how to live as children of the light.

You call us to love one another,

to put the needs and interests of those around us above our own;

to love others as deeply as we have been loved by You.

We confess the times when we have failed,

allowing our own desires and interests to take precedence over the needs of others.

Lord, in Your mercy,

forgive us.

Teach us how to love as we have been loved.

You call us to deal honorably with one another,

even those who have hurt or offended us;

to work through our disagreements with love and integrity,

and so to build up the Body of Christ.

We confess the times when we have failed,

finding it easier to simply walk away from hurtful relationships,

or to talk behind people's backs rather than to their faces.

Lord, in Your mercy,

forgive us.

Teach us how to live with love and integrity.

Give us hunger to know You more,

so that we may do Your will

and walk in Your ways,

to the glory of Your name. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" for the first staff, "You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!" for the second staff, and "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" for the third staff. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em for the first staff; Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E for the second staff. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together.

SUNG RESPONSE "You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy" WAYFARING STRANGER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Grace Notes

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

The Greek texts of Matthew's gospel do not all agree on the numbers used in Jesus' statement on forgiveness. Some read "seventy" while others read "seventy times seven."

In the end, the point of the text is not the number of times we are called to apologize but that we are called to remember that forgiveness takes time and mere words uttered one time are not the path to reconciliation.

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

†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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 18:15-35

"If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church.

If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold.

Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

"When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

"Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

"When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

"My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

The 8th century Latin text on which this hymn is based was traditionally used in the setting of Maundy Thursday foot-washing. It celebrates the “new commandment” of love Christ gives.

1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s ho - ly Son.
 3 Let strife a-mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
 4 Let us for-give each oth-er’s faults as we our own con - fess,
 5 Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God’s name;

brought here to - geth - er by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.
 As mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God’s the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.
 our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

The Brief Statement of Faith of the PC(USA) was written as the first confessional statement of the newly reunited Northern and Southern Presbyterian churches.

+HYMN OF RESPONSE “Where Charity and Love Prevail” TWENTY-FOURTH

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A Brief Statement of Faith

**In life and in death we belong to God.
 Through the grace of our lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel
 whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
 fully human, fully God.
 Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
 preaching good news to the poor
 and release to the captives,
 teaching by word and deed
 and blessing the children,
 healing the sick**

Grace Notes

and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“Un Sospiro”

Franz Liszt

Thomas Sinclair

LITANY FOR THE BEGINNING OF LEPT

Kyrie is a transliteration of the Greek word *Κύριε* which is the vocative case of the word *Κύριος*, the common name of an ancient Christian prayer, “Lord, have mercy.”

The phrase itself derives from a biblical phrase found frequently in the Psalms as well as the gospels. Matthew’s gospel includes multiple examples of the expression.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

Following each petition and a brief silence, worshipers are invited to sing together the words of the Kyrie.

Lord Jesus Christ...
...therefore we pray to you.

Silence is kept

“Kyrie”

KYRIE ELEISON

We call you...
...our own vanity.

Silence is kept.

“The Kyrie”

We call you...
...distracting from you.

Silence is kept.

Grace Notes

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.

“The Kyrie”

We call you...
...of our worship.

Silence is kept.

“The Kyrie”

For it is...
...we boldly pray saying:

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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

PARTING HYMN #536 “Lord, Make Us More Holy” African-American Spiritual

CHARGE AND BENEEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY is on Wednesdays at 12:05. The weekly group will meet from 12:05-12:55 to give those who work and want to participate time to join during lunch. The study, on Romans, meets in the New Chapel and attendees are invited to bring lunch and join in the conversation. Access will also be available by Zoom; see the CareLine for the link. To learn more, contact Pastor Robert.

NEW YEAR NEW YOU YOGA meets Thursdays in the New Chapel at 10am. This low-impact exercise is for all-comers and is a great way to keep in shape and stay flexible.

BRIDGE BUILDERS SPRING STUDY will consider two books this spring: *The Conversation: How Seeking and Speaking the Truth about Racism Can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations*, by Robert Livingston. Also, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard to Talk About Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo. Both books delve into the deepest feelings one might have, or experienced, about racism. BBRG will meet in person, Tuesday March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 6:30-8:30pm, in the New Chapel at WHPC (off Pine Valley and South Road) and will offer the zoom option. Please register at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdeioqjIqHtKDjbjBAvL62kHMkO4cWMZ3>.

BLANKET MAKING in the gathering area on Sunday February 26th, from 12:00-2:00pm. Snacks will be provided and everyone is invited.

YOU'RE INVITED Come to the Westover Hills Preschool Chili Supper and Silent Auction on Friday, March 3rd, in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30-7:30pm. Enjoy three kinds of chili (traditional, vegetarian, white chicken) and hot dogs, and then bid on some of the wonderful silent auction items. Adults \$15, children over 2 years old \$5. Come Join the fun!

DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY the Mission and Advocacy Committee is asking the Westover Hills community to purchase underwear for the Clothes Closet at the Stewpot. They are in need of both men's and women's underwear. Please shop for medium to extra large sizes in boxers, briefs, and tee shirts for men and for women, medium to extra large underpants. Blankets are also always welcome. For those who would rather not shop for underwear, a check can be written to Westover Hills. Please indicate on your check "Underwear for Stewpot." Volunteers will be happy to shop for you.

FREE "CELTIC SPRING" CONCERT by the Muses on Monday, March 13th at 7:00pm in the Westover Hills sanctuary. This is an outstanding singing group from Hot Springs, so be sure to come and enjoy the great music! To preview their music, see www.themusesproject.org and look for their videos.

MORNING CIRCLE will take place on Monday, February 27th at 10:00am in the New Chapel. Lesson leader is Carol Enderlin and hostesses are Eileen Joyce and Nancy Passini. For questions contact Nancy Passini.

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.

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.

FOLLOW US on Instagram @westoverhillspc or on Twitter @ChurchWestover

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Judy Hudson (Donna Callaway's sister, in rehab in Jonesboro after heart surgery); Vivianna McAtee; Andrea Campbell; Pam and Bill Mattes (former frequent visitors at WHPC, living in Poolesville, MD- Pam, broken wrist and tibia); Jane Estes (recovery from long haul Covid and toxic mold healing and remediation of their home); Betty Glenn (recovering at home); Mary Chrisman (broken arm); Susan Mauney (health issues); Jonathon Simpson (friend of Ann Patterson, awaiting kidney transplant); Chriztine and the people of Ukraine (Ukraine collaborator with the WHPC PW on 2013 water project, Chriztine has moved to Hungary for safety); Ljubica and Stanislav Radovic (volleyball coach Tanja Eckart's parents, who live in Croatia- anxiety over nearby war); Barry Wood (grandfather of Sydney- blood infection and upcoming heart surgery); Earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria; TLC (at home) members; Church staff: Pastor Robert, Ulysses, David, Tammy, Sydney and Shawn; Preschool kids, families & staff.

DEACONS FOR FEBRUARY are Alice Ahart and Nancy Blackstone

DEACONS FOR MARCH are Shirley Garlington and Carol Enderlin

CALENDAR

The church calendar is available on the website

(scan QR code to be directed to our website)

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