

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



† THIRD SUNDAY OF LEPT

A SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

MARCH 12, 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 "Meditation" David Austin, Music Director
Mary Lois Stanfield, Piano
Jules Massenet, Composer (arr. William Stickles)

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist Liz Branch

In the midst of fear and anger;
in the midst of mayhem and destruction, God calls us.

**With everything else going on, who has time for a feast?
We're busy, we'll get around to eating eventually.**

In the midst of our anxiety, our worry;
in the midst of bill-paying and appointments, God invites us.

**We are tempted to just grab a bite,
a sandwich between errands,
a snack we can eat while driving, or checking email,
or working on today's big project.**

The feast is spread!
All are invited, all are welcome!

**We are invited. We are welcome. We are worthy.
How will we respond?**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God,
in love You open wide the doors
and welcome us into Your presence—
saints and sinners alike.

You spread a table before us,
filled with the richest fare—
a feast of love and mercy
for the body and soul.

We come with joy to meet You here,
to eat and drink at Your table,
to taste and see Your goodness,
to celebrate Your grace and mercy in our lives.

May Your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving,
our prayers and petitions
as we worship together in Your presence.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our host and Lord, Amen.

Grace Notes

The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together. The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter, but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son.

This tune, known as Restoration, originally appeared in W. Walker's *Southern Harmony* in 1835.

+Hymn

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

RESTORATION

All or Leader

1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,
2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty
3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined
4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,
glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

Refrain
All

full of pit - y, love, and power.
ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and
you will nev - er come at all.
is to feel your need of him.

go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me in his arms. In the

arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

Grace Notes

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 (RESPONSIVE)

God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way.

God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all.

Therefore, I invite you to confess all that would separate you from God or one another. Let us pray.

When we have fashioned idols of our own desire
or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,

Lord, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

When we have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice,
or failed to extend the invitation to others,

Christ, have mercy.

Time for personal reflection and confession.

When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy
or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near,

Lord, have mercy.

Silence is kept

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

Not the tune made famous by Burl Ives and Johnny Cash, this tune titled "Wayfaring Stranger" is a 20th century arrangement of a traditional Appalachian melody.

The pairing of the traditional liturgical text with this traditional tune merges the distant with the not so distant cultures of the church.

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Grace Notes

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

Written by prolific English hymn writer Fred Pratt Green, this poetic text was written for an existing tune.

Green died in 2000 at the age of 97 as one of the most prolific hymn writers of the 20th century.

†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 22:1-14

Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn't want to come. Again he sent other servants and said to them, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Look, the meal is all prepared. I've butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything's ready. Come to the wedding party!"' But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them.

"The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren't worthy. Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.'

"Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.'

"Many people are invited, but few people are chosen."

SERMON

"Busy Doesn't Cut It"

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF RESPONSE #419 "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord" REPTON

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in the debonaire God
who clothes the wild flowers
dressing them so superbly
that they outdo Solomon in all his glory;
who is the true Friend
of all creatures great and small
who feeds magpies and laughing kookaburras,
and even doleful ravens and soaring hawks.**

**We believe in the God of Christ Jesus,
the Source of abundance,
full of grace and truth.**

Grace Notes

Notice how the confession uses the superlative for God in so many different ways. God, to the writer, is always just a little bit more...

More love

More grace

More hope

More everything!

These blankets do not yet have a destination so we bless them today to comfort all who touch them and all who are comforted by them.

A special thanks to all of the loving hands that make this ministry possible!

**We believe in the extravagant God
who turns the other cheek,
goes the second mile,
turns water into the best wine,
brings healing with his every touch,
and who welcomes a woman's love
as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.**

**We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ,
who sweated blood in an Olive Grove,
and kept the faith to the very end.**

**We believe in the redeeming God
who spared no cost,
forgave even his brutal crucifiers,
had time for a dying thief at his side,
and who on the third day
did a thing so prodigious
that even his friends were dismayed with joy.**

**We believe in the God of Jesus Christ,
the Source of abundance
wherever we turn
and no matter what we do. Amen**

BLESSING OF THE BLANKETS

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

WESTOVER HILLS PRESCHOOL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Let Me Walk with You"

arr. Tim Osiek

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

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.

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

+PARTING Hymn #418 "God Bless Your Church with Strength!"

ICH HALTE TREULICH STILL

+CHARGE AND BENEEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

STOP! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DON'T HEAD OUT JUST YET.
TAKE A RIGHT AT THE BACK AND HEAD TO THE PRESCHOOL FOR A
TOUR AND TO SEE SOME OF THE UPDATES RECENTLY MADE!

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY Pastor Robert Lowry, Music Director David Austin, Pianist Mary Lois Stanfield, Liturgist Liz Branch, and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

THE ART ON THE BULLETIN COVER is a copperplate engraving by Matthaüs Merian *der Aeltere* (the elder). A member of the wealthy Genevan Merian family, Matthaüs was an artist, engraver, and publisher. The work on the cover, titled "The Wedding Banquet," is a copperplate engraving.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Jackie Oakes joins us from Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church in North Carolina where she was an active member prior to her move to Little Rock.

Carmen and Brad Stokes are longtime friends of WHPC and return to our fellowship through reaffirmation of faith.



We are grateful to welcome these newest members. If you are looking for a church home, Westover Hills may be the place for you! Feel free to ask any questions you have or reach out to a member or Pastor Rob to learn more.

MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY will not meet this week. We will resume on Wednesday, March 22.

PASTOR ROBERT is in Louisville at the PC(USA) national offices for the annual meeting of his General Assembly committee. As you may know, the committee has been caught in a controversy in the national church. Robert and the other members of the committee welcome your prayers.

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 is considering two books: *The Conversation*, by Robert Livingston and *White Fragility*, by Robin DiAngelo. Both books delve into the deepest feelings one might have, or have experienced, about racism. BBRG will meet in person, Tuesday, March 14, 21 and 28, 6:30-8:30pm, in the New Chapel at WHPC (off Pine Valley and South Road) and will offer zoom option. Please register at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdeioqjlqHtKDjbjBAvL62kHMkO4cWMZ3>.

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.

THE CARELINE IS GETTING A FACELIFT and an update. Over the next couple of weeks, the Careline may be delayed as we transition into what we hope will be a more user-friendly format. Please send news for CarLine to office.westoverhills@gmail.com.

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 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.

PRAYER SHAWLS BEING DEDICATED TODAY were made by Jan Perryman for the prayer shawl ministry of the Deacons. Please notify a Deacon if you know of someone needing the comfort of a shawl reminding them of God’s grace and care.

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 Mark Jennings (friend of Robert Lowry– recovering from stroke); Miriam Holt (Liz Branch’s sister- recovering from a fall); Michael Thompson (Son of Alice Ahart’s friend- diagnosed with leukemia); Jane and Bob Batton (friends of Pastor Lowry- lost their 42 year old son); Judy Hudson (Donna Callaway’s sister, recovering from heart surgery); Vivianna McAtee; Andrea Campbell; 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 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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