

# WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



## MATTHEW 25

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LEPT

A SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

MARCH 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 "Meditation" David Austin, Music Director  
Mary Lois Stanfield, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist Kathy Mainard

Jesus says:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

**And blessed is the church  
that trusts in the grace of Christ  
to build congregational vitality.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, by your Word and Spirit,  
come and transform your church  
to be a living sign of your love for the world —  
where the poor are filled with good things,  
the dividing walls are broken down,  
and the dead are raised to new life;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

†HYMN #376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" HYFRYDOL

### 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)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered  
from your way of truth and life.  
You call us to walk in newness of life  
and to be witnesses to the resurrection,  
but we dwell in the valley of dry bones**

## Grace Notes

and keep silent about your saving love.  
Forgive us, God of grace.  
Set us free from sin, death and fear  
so that we may serve you with gladness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Silence is kept*

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

Three staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The lyrics are: "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!" Chords are indicated above the notes: Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em for the first line; Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E for the second line.

The apocalyptic discourse in Matthew 25 is the basis for the new Matthew 25 initiative in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Rooted in Jesus' revelation that when we serve "the least of these" we serve him, Matthew 25 focuses on three key principles:

- ◆ Building Vital Congregations
- ◆ Dismantling Structural Racism
- ◆ Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Each congregation that joins the Matthew 25 movement is invited to tailor the program to their own circumstance.

At WHPC we participate in the program through mission focus, public witness, and our newly formed Matthew 25 team that is exploring issues of congregational vitality.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...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 25:31-46

*"Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him.*

*He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.*

*"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'*

## Grace Notes

*“Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’*

*“Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’*

*“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’*

*“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.”*

SERMON

“Because We Can, We Must”

Dr. Lowry

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

†HYMN OF RESPONSE #408 *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

GERMANY

**Written at the time** of the reunion of the northern and southern Presbyterian churches in 1983, A Brief Statement of Faith was the first statement of faith of the newly reunited church.

June 8, 1983, both the northern and southern church General Assemblies met in Atlanta. After each voted overwhelmingly on reunion, bagpipes began to play and the commissioners, guests, and officers of both denominations filed out of separate doors of the convention hall and paraded through downtown Atlanta to the steps of city hall. There, then— mayor of Atlanta Andrew Young, along with other religious leaders, offered greetings..

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.**

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image  
to live as one community.**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

With believers in every time and place,

**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## Grace Notes

A gentle and contemporary anthem recalling the meaning of Christ's resurrection, "Free from Guilt and Free from Sin" is a simple folk-like offering. The delicate beauty of the message is heartfelt and captures the sublimity of the resurrection promise.

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

#### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

*"Free from Guilt and Free from Sin"*

Arr. Don and Jaree Hall

*WHPC Chancel Choir*

*Dark, the stain I cannot hide;  
stain of sin, my guilt to prove,  
guilt my own, and foolish pride;  
pride, the reason for my sin.*

*Light of God came shining down;  
Son of God, my soul to win,  
laid aside His heavenly crown,  
paid the price for all my sin;  
paid the price for all my sin.*

*Wash me in the Savior's love;  
make me pure, without, within;  
cleanse my heart and set me free,  
free from guilt and free from sin,  
free from guilt and free from sin.*

*Love of God that lights my way;  
Love displayed on Calvary;  
Lamb of God my soul to save  
gave his life to set me free!*

*Gone, the darkness, come the Light;  
Gone, the night, the day begins.  
Gone, the wrong, my soul made right,  
free from guilt and free from sin;  
free from guilt and free from sin!*

*Wash me in the Savior's love,  
make me pure without, within.  
Cleanse my heart, and set me free;  
free from guilt and free from sin.*

## 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.**

*Grace Notes*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME**

\*PARTING Hymn

*"Jesus, Be with Us"*

**Written by** Dr. David Gambrell, Associate in the Office of Theology and Worship of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), the hymn "Jesus, Be with Us" captures the three principles of the Matthew 25 movement.

The hymn was written as a gift to the church for this new ministry focus.

Gambrell, a graduate of Austin Seminary and Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, is a prolific hymn writer and has several texts in the new *Glory to God* hymnal.

*Refrain* Je - sus, be with us. Help us each day to fol - low the  
 Cm F7 Bb Ab G7  
 gos - pel and live as we pray. Send us your Spir - it and  
 Cm F7 Fm Bb Ebsus Eb *fine*  
 show us your way. Je - sus, be with us to - day.  
 Cm Gm Fm Eb  
*Leader or all* 1 Where there is hun - ger and thirst in the land,  
 2 Where there is ha - tred be - cause of our skin,  
 3 Where there are val - leys of bones, dry as dust,  
 Cm Fm Gsus G7  
 shat - ter the sys - tems of greed.  
 break down the walls of our fear.  
 build up the bod - y of Christ.  
 Cm Gm Bb Eb  
 Je - sus, be with us; make use of our hands.  
 Je - sus, be with us; to save us from sin.  
 Je - sus, be with us, and help us to trust.  
 F7 F7 Bbsus Bb7  
 Lift up your great love, draw us near.  
 Teach us a new way of life.

## 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.

+CHARGE AND BENEEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

## WORSHIP NOTES

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

## THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY** meets on Wednesdays at 12:05. The weekly group meets 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** is considering two books: *The Conversation*, by Robert Livingston and *White Fragility*, by Robin DiAngelo. Whether you have read or not read the books, you are invited for rich discussion of issues on racism. BBRG meets in person, Tuesday, March 28, 6:30-8:30pm, in the New Chapel at WHPC (off Pine Valley and South Road) and offers the zoom option. Please register at

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

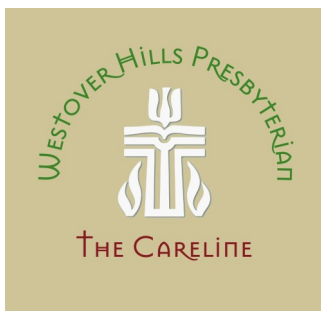
**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING- SDOP HELPS FORMERLY INCARCERATED WOMEN** SDOP, Self-Development of People, has helped Why Not Prosper, which is comprised of formerly incarcerated women building up other women who've experienced incarceration. "...the Rev. Dr. Michelle Simmons, the founder of that group, discusses their Anti-Violence Campaign, which addresses violence in the Germantown community in Philadelphia. The program includes female-led peace patrollers who walk the community every second Monday to hand out 'love bags' and listen to the concerns of neighbors. "The assistance [from SDOP] has been invaluable, as it has helped us to hire a coordinator, which facilitates the carrying out of our day-to-day activities," Simmons said. "Since SDOP is a national organization, it has also helped us to gain credibility through national recognition." Ms. Simmons "explained why she appreciates SDOP's unique support: 'It funds projects where the person who has suffered from the problem at hand is the same one leading the charge to correct the problem.'" Offering envelopes will be in worship bulletins the next two Sundays. Or you may give online at [specialofferings.pcusa.org](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org)

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S DAY OF MISSION GATHERING** April 22, 2023 (Saturday) Presbyterian Women's Day of Mission Gathering at Ferncliff Camp, sponsored by Presbytery of Arkansas PW. There is a \$10 registration fee which includes lunch. Registration is from 8:30 to 9:30am. They are asking women to bring vegetable and flower seed packets and/ or new garden gloves for the Ferncliff Farmstead. Wear comfortable clothing as we will be working in the farmstead (weather permitting) or in the Disaster Assistance Center. If anyone wants to spend Friday night, rooms are available (\$109 double occupancy) on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline for room registration is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Call Vicki Erickson (479-659-2398) to reserve a room. Kay Stephens has registration forms for those who would like to attend. Please let Kay know by March 30<sup>th</sup> so she can send in your name. This should be fun!

**BLANKET MAKING AFTER WORSHIP** Join the Presbyterian Women today after worship for blanket making in the gathering area. This is an ongoing project hosted by the PW to benefit patients at UAMS. If you have never joined before, that's okay; come down today and see what they're all about!

**“MARY & MARTHA” MORNING CIRCLE, OPEN TO ALL WOMEN, AT 10AM MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>** Presbyterian Women's "Mary & Martha" Circle will meet on Monday, March 27th at 10am in the New Chapel (accessible from the parking lot off Pine Valley Drive and South Road). Alice Ahart will lead Lesson 7, "Sabbath and Self-Care," and hostesses will be Carolyn Nash and Laura Whitmore. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Passini.

**SAVE THE DATE** April 29<sup>th</sup> is free shred day in the South Parking Lot. If you have any documents that need to be shredded bring them on down. Free shredding will be available from 9:00 to 11:00am, so tell all your friends and family!



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

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

**PLEASE SEND NEWS FOR CARELINE** to [office.westoverhills@gmail.com](mailto:office.westoverhills@gmail.com). If you would like to receive the twice-weekly church e-newsletter (CareLine), please fill out a contact card from a pew rack, add 'CareLine request' and drop the card in an offering box.

**FOLLOW US** on Instagram @westoverhillspc or on Twitter @ChurchWestover

## PASTORAL CARE

**PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS** Carol- Ann Blow (health issues); Shirley Garlington (death of brother-in-law, Johnny Bynum, in Fredericksburg, TX); Rev. Marion Humphrey and family (death of his mother, Doris Pendleton); Mark Jennings (friend of Pastor 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); 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); 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 and for April are

## CALENDAR

The church calendar is available on the website

(scan QR code or visit [www.westoverhills.org](http://www.westoverhills.org) to be directed to our website)



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