

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



Ebstorfer Mappa Mundi, 13th Century German

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

APRIL 30, 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

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Dr. Robert Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Jim Phillips

The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

Let our joy be complete!

Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

Love one another!

Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

No longer servants but friends!

Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

Rejoicing in the friendship of God.

+OPENING PRAYER

O Beloved One,

All the ends of the earth marvel

at your deeds of power and grace; we feel your presence

as growth returning to the countryside;

we rejoice as we remember your faithfulness and steadfast love

revealed in the risen Christ.

Surround us with that faithfulness and steadfast love.

Fill us with generosity and courage

so that we may be called your friends

and go forth to befriend your world in Jesus' name. Amen.

+OPENING SONG OF PRAISE #106 "Alleluia, Alleluia" ALLELUIA NO. 1

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ has risen and we have risen to new life with him.

Yet we must confess the ways we have continued to remain in our tombs of sin

and death. Together let us confess our sins, embrace the promise of the risen

Christ, and stand together in the light of God's grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Light,

we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light.

We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune.

We follow the dim lights that call us

to be more religious by following rules.

We follow the fading light of personal salvation.

Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world.

Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus,

who commanded us to love one another.

Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice,

in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed.

In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

Grace Notes

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

†SUNG RESPONSE “*Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me*”

GLORY TO GOD

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the
2 World without end, with-out end. A-men. World with-out
Son, whose grace has par - doned me, and to the
end, with - out end. A - men. World with-out
Spir - it, whose love has set me free. As it
end, with - out end. A - men.
was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ever shall be. A - men.

†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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18

Acts 13 introduces part of the story of the church beyond the expected community of Jews and converted Gentiles.

The church spreads much like the Jesus movement started, with stories of miracles, building community, and persuading rather than forcing converts.

The church at Antioch included prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon (nicknamed Niger), Lucius from Cyrene, Manaen (a childhood friend of Herod the ruler), and Saul. As they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul to the work I have called them to undertake.” After they fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on these two and sent them off.

In Lystra there was a certain man who lacked strength in his legs. He had been crippled since birth and had never walked. Sitting there, he heard Paul speaking. Paul stared at him and saw that he believed he could be healed.

Raising his voice, Paul said, “Stand up straight on your feet!” He jumped up and began to walk.

Seeing what Paul had done, the crowd shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have taken human form and come down to visit us!” They referred to Barnabas as Zeus and to Paul as Hermes, since Paul was the main speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was located just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates. Along with the crowds, he wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

Grace Notes

When the Lord's messengers Barnabas and Paul found out about this, they tore their clothes in protest and rushed out into the crowd. They shouted, "People, what are you doing? We are humans too, just like you! We are proclaiming the good news to you: turn to the living God and away from such worthless things. He made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. In the past, he permitted every nation to go its own way. Nevertheless, he hasn't left himself without a witness. He has blessed you by giving you rain from above as well as seasonal harvests, and satisfying you with food and happiness." Even with these words, they barely kept the crowds from sacrificing to them.

SERMON

"May the Circle Be Unbroken"

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

"For Everyone Born"

FOR EVERYONE BORN

This hymn from noted New Zealand hymn writer Shirley Erena Murray affirms that God's hospitality transcends all boundaries and barriers.

The hymn also makes the claim that we who have been called to the church are called to live lives that reflect the radical hospitality of God. And when we do live those values of justice and joy, compassion and peace, we delight God and live more fully into our calling.



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Grace Notes

Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,
God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
jus-tice and joy!

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Note: For the Affirmation of Faith, the two sections closest to the lectern will read the “Lectern Side” portion and the two sections nearest the pulpit will read the other parts. Those seated in the middle section and the choir are invited to pick whichever part they would like to read!

Adapted from the Belhar Confession, this affirmation of faith is written in a call-and-response format. This form of liturgy creates in the community the sense of conversation. Rather than reciting together the same words, we share in a back-and-forth the truths we proclaim.

Lectern Side: We believe that God has entrusted the church with the good news that we have been reconciled in and through Jesus Christ;

Pulpit Side: *That the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world;*

Lectern: That the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker;

Pulpit: *That the church witnesses by what it says and by what it does to the new heaven and the new earth, where righteousness dwells;*

Lectern: That through the life-giving work of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, God has conquered the powers of sin and death, and so also of alienation and hatred, bitterness and enmity;

Pulpit: *That Christ through his Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience, obedience that can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;*

Lectern: That when those who proclaim the message of reconciliation nevertheless separate people by race, promoting and perpetuating alienation, hatred, and enmity, the credibility of this message of reconciliation is seriously affected, and the beneficial work of this message is obstructed.

Pulpit: *That anyone who*

- ◆ *attempts to justify racial separation by appealing to the gospel,*
- ◆ *is not prepared to venture on the road to obedience and reconciliation, or*
- ◆ *denies that the gospel has the power to reconcile because of prejudice, fear, selfishness, and unbelief, that person holds to false doctrine— which doctrine we reject!*

All: Together we confess Christ resurrected, the living One, the hope of the world who unites us beyond worldly divisions into one holy and blessed community.

Grace Notes

Writer Kathleen Norris describes a weekend when she and her fiancé attended a Roman Catholic wedding on Long Island. The night before the wedding she was invited to the obligatory family potluck. “The marvelous abundance and seemingly bottomless hospitality were overwhelming to my timid Protestant soul—the feasting! The drinking! The toddlers, dogs and cats contending for scraps under the picnic tables...Enough for everyone; more than enough.”

-As quoted in Christ, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper by Leonard J. Vander Zee

The Lord's Supper should be like that potluck—abundant, surprising, joyful, and even a little chaotic. Christ gives us the meal not to separate us from the world but to show how He is united with us in it. Right in the midst of the messiness of a family and friends dinner, Christ is here with us.

OFFERTORY

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE SURSUM CORDA

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 our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, and the power,

and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Laughing, loving, living God, your voice echoes through the world,

We have responded to your invitation to join in the Banquet.

Here we have eaten, we have drunk, we have tasted your goodness.

May the joy we find in this meal together lift up our hearts,

may we carry your laughter to the world around us,

may we live out that foolishness called love wherever we go.

Amen.

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

*PARTING HYMN #411 *“Arise! Your Light Is Come”* FESTAL SONG

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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

THE COVER ART ON THE BULLETIN TODAY is a reproduction of the Ebsdorfer Mappa Mundi. A medieval mappa mundi was a theological interpretation of the map of the world showing the dominion of Christ. In the picture you notice that at the top of the map is Christ's head. His hands extend from each side and his feet from the bottom. Christ is the world. The maps are wildly inaccurate in terms of geography, but they do give a theological glimpse into their era. This particular mappa mundi was 12'x12' and made of 16 goat skins sewn together. The original was destroyed in an Allied bombing raid on Hanover in 1943. This reproduction is made from detail included in surviving black and white pictures as well as color reproductions.

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 Midweek Manna Bible Study continues a journey through the book of Ezekiel. This week we welcome special guest Rabbi Barry Block from Congregation B'Nai Israel in Little Rock. Rabbi Block is a leader in the Central Committee of American Rabbis and editor of "The Mussar Torah Commentary" published by the CCAR.

You can come in person or join via zoom, check the CareLine for the Zoom code.



Rabbi Barry Block



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

THE SID MCCOLLUM FARMER'S MARKET The annual Farmer's Market will be returning beginning May 2nd. The Farmer's Market is open every Tuesday from 3:30-6:00pm, so come and check out the local produce and other items from local vendors. If you have any questions, you may contact Bob Quinn.

SUNDAY BRUNCH RETURNS ON MAY 7 The Westover Men are reviving the 5th Sunday Brunch, which will take place Sunday, May 7th at 9:15am. We will be joined by Reverend Michael Gallup and the congregation from The Table. Worship will be in the style celebrated by the Table and will be held in Fellowship Hall after brunch.

Sunday
BRUNCH

This will be a great time to get to know the members of The Table and come together and worship as one.

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.

SOME CARELINE CHANGES A few things have changed in the Careline. These include:

- Pastor Robert's calendar for the month
- The full church and building calendar for the month (rather than only the week as previously practiced)
- More info from mission partners for community events and opportunities.

THE CARELINE CONTINUES TO UNDERGO RENOVATIONS If you have suggestions on what needs to be included, how to make the Careline more readable, etc. please contact Sydney in the church office. We are committed to

making this a resource to the whole church and welcome your input!

PRAYER LIST UPDATE The prayer list has been updated for this quarter, so if you or a loved one would like to be on the prayer list, please contact the church office at office.westoverhills@gmail.com. The name will remain on the prayer list until the office is notified to remove it or at the beginning of a new quarter.

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. 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](https://www.instagram.com/westoverhillspc) or on Twitter [@ChurchWestover](https://twitter.com/ChurchWestover)

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Andy and Katie Weatherington (Katie's father died tragically and their home was affected by the tornado); Jane Estes (recovery from long haul Covid and toxic mold healing and remediation of their home); Vivianna McAtee; Ralph Cotham, Andrea Campbell; Tornado victims and those who responded to the crisis; WHPC staff: Robert, David, Ulysses, Tammy, Shawn, and Sydney; WHPC Preschool kids, families, and staff.

DEACONS FOR APRIL are Nancy Blackstone and Joy Thomas.

DEACONS FOR MAY are John MacLeod and Rosemary McGinnis

CALENDAR

The church calendar is available on the website

(scan QR code or visit www.westoverhills.org to be directed to our website)

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