

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

MAY 21, 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 David Austin, Music Director

+CALL TO WORSHIP Ray Stephens, Liturgist

Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—
outsiders and insiders,
old-timers and new-comers,
the young, old and the in-between.

Here we are! At God's invitation and with hope through Christ!

Come as you are,
for this is God's house—a house of prayer for all people,
and God welcomes each one who comes.

Let's pray, sing, worship, and hope together!

+OPENING PRAYER

With open arms You welcome all who call on Your name—
who acknowledge You as Lord, and look to You in faith.
No one stands outside the circle of Your mercy and love.
And so we come to offer You our worship—
to declare that You are our God,
and that we are Your people,
called and chosen by You from the very beginning.
Through the presence of Your Holy Spirit
open our eyes to see You here;
open our minds to receive Your truth,
and our mouths to speak and sing Your praise.
For You alone are God—
worthy of all praise and worship,
now and to the end of time. Amen.

+SONG OF PRAISE #466 *"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"* AZMON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, nothing we can say or do can ever separate us from God's mercy and love.

The gifts of God are eternal and will never be withdrawn. God's ultimate desire and purpose is not to punish but to forgive. So together we may pray with hope, not fear.

Let us pray together.

Grace Notes

The Prayer of Confession is not about listing a litany of our sins. Rather it is an opportunity to reorient ourselves toward God's mercy.

We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. But what never falls short (and never falls away) is God's love for us.

Composer Paul Vasile is a church musician, consultant, composer, and teacher living in Washington D.C. His work explores the connection between traditional liturgical texts and language and the creativity and energy of music.

The sung response to the confession is a traditional text he has put to a modern melody.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess how easy it is for us to begin to adopt
the attitudes and actions of the world around us;
to let our lives be shaped by whims of a frightened culture
rather than by Your call to love, mercy, and justice.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear and forgive.**

We confess how often we think of our own interests first—
more concerned with our own status and well-being
than with the well-being of others.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear and forgive.**

We confess that we have not always treated one another
as valued members of Your Body, the Church;
that we have allowed anger and resentment over past wrongs distract us
from beloved community in the here and now.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear and forgive.**

We confess that we do not always acknowledge You as Lord,
trusting in our own abilities and following our own goals
rather than leaning into your love and hope for us.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear and forgive.**

Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, transform us.
Change us from the inside out,
so that our words and our lives would match the love we know from
you. **Amen.**

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 without
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 ev-er shall be. A - men.

Grace Notes

Romans 11 is an extended argument from Paul about the breadth of God's love. Some in the early church thought that God's revelation in Christ necessarily excluded Israel from the new covenant. Others insisted that it was still only Israel and not the Gentiles who were included in the covenant of Christ.

Paul insists that God's love is broad and deep enough to include more than our imaginations can conceive.

This short affirmation of faith reminds us that the God in whom we believe is eternally three in one and one in three. Put another way, God is eternally in community. We are called to live lives that reflect that divine nature in community with one another.

+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

Romans 11:16-24

But if part of a batch of dough is offered to God as holy, the whole batch of dough is holy too. If a root is holy, the branches will be holy too. If some of the branches were broken off, and you were a wild olive branch, and you were grafted in among the other branches and shared the root that produces the rich oil of the olive tree, then don't brag like you're better than the other branches. If you do brag, be careful: it's not you that sustains the root, but it's the root that sustains you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." Fine. They were broken off because they weren't faithful, but you stand only by your faithfulness. So don't think in a proud way; instead be afraid. If God didn't spare the natural branches, he won't spare you either. So look at God's kindness and harshness. It's harshness toward those who fell, but it's God's kindness for you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise, you could be cut off too. And even those who were cut off will be grafted back in if they don't continue to be unfaithful, because God is able to graft them in again. If you were naturally part of a wild olive tree and you were cut off from it, and then, contrary to nature, you were grafted into the cultivated olive tree, won't these natural branches stand an even better chance of being grafted back onto their own olive tree?

SERMON

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE #355 "Hear the Good News of Salvation" NETTLETON

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God above us,

Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.

We believe in Christ beside us,

Companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.

We believe in Spirit deep within us,

Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.

We believe in God's resurrection created world,

Where all things are fixed, and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.

We believe in God above, beside, within,

God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in three,

We believe in God.

Grace Notes

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving is a traditional part of the Eucharistic liturgy but it is not one that is set in stone. Numerous prayers have been composed over the centuries in the church.

The only requirements for a Great Prayer of Thanksgiving are that it be said with faith and sincerity and that it be written in a way that directs the congregation's witness to the attributes, mercies, love, and hope of God.

Composer H. A. Cesar Malan was instrumental in the revival of Reformed hymnody in 19th century France. Church music had been dominated by Catholic composers for most of French history.

OFFERING

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 #391

"Take My Life"

HENDON

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY are Pastor Robert Lowry, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist Tom Callaway, the Westover Hills Chancel Choir, and special guest harpist Alisa Coffey.

Special music today is provided in memory of Carrie Austin, Harriette Freeze, and Annette Gibbs Haney.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUMMER KICK-OFF POTLUCK The Matthew 25 Church Vitality working group is hosting a potluck Wednesday, May 24. There will be good food, great fellowship, and even a few fun surprises! This event will be held in Fellowship Hall and it will start at 6:00pm (5:45pm for set up). Please refer to the CareLine for more information and to see what kind of dish you can bring! Fried chicken will be provided. This will be a great start to the Summer, so we look forward to seeing you there!



THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE would like to recognize our graduates from high school and higher education on Sunday, May 28. If you have a child or grandchild who has graduated during the time since last May's recognition or will graduate this May, please email your student's name, photo, and bio to Liz Branch at erbranch@comcast.net



MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY Midweek Manna meets every Wednesday at 12:05 in the New Chapel. This allows people who work to come on their lunch break either in person or via Zoom. We have begun our journey through Ezekiel which will provide deep insights and great discussion. Pop in and join us or you can find the zoom link in the CareLine.

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 has returned. 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.

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 it will be removed 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

PASTOR ROBERT'S CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday	Wednesday	Friday
Church Committee Meetings (following worship)	10am PC(USA) Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Zoom	Noon Preach at Baccalaureate Service Union Seminary Richmond
Monday	Noon Midweek Manna	Saturday
9-3 Summer Worship Planning	Thursday	10am Union Seminary Graduation
Tuesday	9-3 Vera Lloyd Foundation Board Meeting	
12-2pm Clinton Foundation Cohort Meeting		

FOLLOW US on Instagram @westoverhillspc or on Twitter @ChurchWestover

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Susan Mauney (knee surgery); Andy and Katie Weatherington (Katie's father died tragically and their home was affected by the tornado); Winnie Robinson (declining health); Michael Thompson (diagnosed with leukemia); Jane Estes (recovery from long haul Covid and toxic mold healing and remediation of their home); Vivianna McAtee; Ralph Cotham, Andrea Campbell; The young people at Pulaski County Juvenile Detention Center (PCJDC); 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 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)

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6400 RICHARD B HARDIE DRIVE

LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

501-663-6383

