

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)
English poet in the Pre-Raphaelite School

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

A SERVICE OF WORD

AUGUST 27, 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 Liturgist, Tom Callaway

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**For once we were lost and felt so far away;
now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

AMEN!

+OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we would follow you
wherever you might lead.

Lord, we would follow you.
Forgive us when we stumble
and when we stray.

Forgive us when, distracted
we lose our way.

Be the one to whom we turn,
whose hand we hold,
the Shepherd who leads us
safely to the fold.

Lord, we would follow you
wherever you might lead.

Lord, we would follow you. Amen.

+SONG OF PRAISE "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" HOLY MANNA

1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.
2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo - ses' sis - ter aid - ed him.
3 Is there here a trem - bling jail - er, seek - ing grace and filled with fears?
4 Let us love our God su - preme - ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

Grace Notes

Although originally a gender-exclusive song, this hymn has been adapted to reflect an egalitarian theology.

Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?
Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?
Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.
Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.
Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!
Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.

Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.
Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

CALL TO CONFESSIO

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSIO

**God of wisdom,
we confess the foolishness of our ways,
and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships –
with you and with others.
We have gone astray; we feel lost.
We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others.
We have failed to be generous with the poor,
and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice.
We feel the weight of our sins, God;
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Sin is not always “doing something wrong.” Sometimes our sinning is in the form of failing to act or acting for selfish rather than generous reasons. Whatever the root of our sin, the same truth abides; God forgives.

Grace Notes

**We seek your unfailing love
and ask for your guiding hand on our lives.
You are the immortal, invisible One;
to you be honour and glory forever; amen.**

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

+SUNG RESPONSE

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

A E Bm E A D E A

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Christina Rossetti was a prolific English poet of the Victorian era. Part of the pre-Raphaelite school, her work is influenced by the four principles of the members of the school:

- To have genuine ideas to express;
- To study nature attentively, so as to know how to express them;
- To sympathize with what is direct and serious and heartfelt in previous art, to the exclusion of what is conventional and self-parading and learned by rote; and
- Most indispensable of all, to produce thoroughly good pictures and statues.

“Good Friday” is a poem that describes the poet’s struggle to feel close to Christ. Many of her questions raised in the short poem are still being asked today as part of the Evangelical deconstruction of American Christianity.

+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

POEM

“Good Friday”

Christina Rossetti

*Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood’s slow loss,
And yet not weep?*

*Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter, weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;*

*Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.*

*Yet give not o’er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 15:9-17

SERMON

“Found”

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

†HYMN OF RESPONSE #171 *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

ST. COLUMBA

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed is the defining statement of faith of the global Christian church. First adapted in 325 following the First Council of Nicea, it was amended to its current form at the 381 First Council of Constantinople.

It's placement in worship varies from tradition to tradition. In the Reformed tradition it generally follows the sermon as a response to the proclamation of the Word. In the Byzantine rite, the creed is sung or recited at the Divine Liturgy immediately preceding the eucharistic prayer.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial to the father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

Grace Notes

Baptist hymn writer Robert Lowry was noted for his evangelical fervor and his academic credentials. He was both a prolific hymn writer and composer as well as a noted Professor serving as professor or rhetoric and later Chancellor of Lewisburg University (now Bucknell University).

If you are looking for a new church home or would like to learn more about Westover Hills, please let an usher, greeter, or Dr. Lowry know. We would love to tell you more about life at WHPC!

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

+PARTING HYMN

"My Life Flows On"

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

+CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY are Dr. Robert Lowry, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist Tom Callaway and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY is taking a break and will be returning on August 30th!

NEW YEAR NEW YOU YOGA Yoga will be taking a break and will be returning on September 7th.

ADULT CLASSES SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 Adult Classes in August: Inter Religious Discussions

We offer the August adult class discussions to build our understanding and of and relationship to our inter-religious partners. We are particularly interested in others' faith and practice and how we at Westover Hills can follow God and serve our community together with them.

During the month of August, the adult class meetings will focus on the following topics:

August 27– Baha'i– Dan Reimer

2ND WEDNESDAY SPIRITUALITY GROUP Please join us for our Second Wednesday Spirituality Group every second Wednesday of the month. This group meets in the New Chapel and if you need directions you may contact H.K Stewart for more information or directions. The next few classes will take place on September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13.

STEWOPOT CLOTHES CLOSET It is HOT! And the Clothes Closet has been having more and more folks in need. We have had to increase the number of hours we are open. Donations have begun to slow down, so we are asking for the following items:

- Ball caps
- Men's athletic shoes
- Men's jeans and docker type pants waist size 30-36
- Travel size toothpaste, shampoo, lotion, soap and backpacks

There is a donation box in the office as well as in the Narthex of the Sanctuary. We do appreciate all that you do for the Clothes Closet!

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.

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.

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

PRAYER LIST UPDATE 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. The prayer list has been updated, so be sure to email the office if you or a loved one would like to remain on the list.

The Prayer List will be updated on September 5, so if you or a loved one would like to remain on the prayer list please contact the office.

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS The Garcia family (friend of Sydney, recent passing of daughter/sister and father is recovering in the hospital from two strokes); Deran Abernathy (son-in-law of former member Judy Huffman; stage 4 lung cancer); Joan Lasseter and family (Max's cousin, her husband, junior, was killed in a traffic accident); Ann Patterson (recovering from outpatient surgery); Mary Ellen Holder (diagnostic testing); The people of Maui (wildfires); Linda Maddux (Carmen Stokes sister-in-law); Cliff Hutchinson (shoulder injury); Lila Quinn; Julie Gaffney and Family (Friend of Judi King; father passed away on 7/29); Jim Miller (broken ankle; rehab); George Ngundune (Christiana Esem-Kuwong's grandson in Missouri, undiagnosed illness); Cindy Brown (Betty Deere's friend, in AR Heart Hospital); Hope Walker (back injury); Courtenay Jackson; Suzanne Carroll (El Dorado, mother of Tammy Carroll Miller, heart attack); Phyllis Thomas (mother-in-law of Karen Stephens Thomas, daughter of Ray and Kay Stephens; breast cancer); Anna Grace Clark (friend of Shirley Garlington, brain tumor treatment); Jane Estes (recovery from long haul Covid, and toxic mold treatment and recent discovery of additional mold delaying further remediation and Jane's ability to return home safely); Vivianna McAtee; Amy Crawford (late stage liver cancer); Kimberly Crawford and Caroline Crawford (daughters of Amy Crawford); Brad Stokes; The WHPC Staff: Robert, Tammy, David, Ulysses, Shawn, and Sydney; WHPC Preschool and Play Day staff, children, and families.

DEACONS FOR AUGUST are Ann Bell 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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6400 RICHARD B HARDIE DRIVE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

