

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A SERVICE OF WORD

SEPTEMBER 3, 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.

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Indicates an invitation to stand in body or spirit.

Bold text indicates unison readings.

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Dr. Robert Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE David Austin, Music Director

+CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist, Ray Stephens

We come to worship!

Be still and aware of God's presence
within and around you.

(Pause)

Be still and aware of Jesus' presence
within and around you.

(Pause)

Be still and aware of the Spirit's presence
within and around you.

(Pause)

Be still and know the presence of the Triune God,
the Father to whom we come,
the Son through whom we come,
the Spirit by whom we come.

(Pause)

Hear his word:

Be STILL and know that I am God.

+OPENING PRAYER

O Living God of past and future,
we praise you
for this present moment.

Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit,
that our strength may be renewed
to sing a new song of your glory
in a world which longs for your justice and peace.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus,
in whom we become
your new creation. Amen.

+SONG OF PRAISE #507 "I Come with Joy" DOVE OF PEACE

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 The gifts of God are eternal and will never be withdrawn.

Grace Notes

This contemporary setting to a Caribbean melody underscores the celebratory nature of the proclamation, Hallelujah!

Why are there two spellings of the word alleluia/hallelujah?

The short answer is, just because.

The longer answer is that hallelujah is derived from the Hebrew word and alleluia from the Latin. They mean the same thing, but the history of the spellings is rooted in those two distinct languages.

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 CONFESSION

**Lord Jesus Christ,
We call you Lord,
Yet it is too easy for us to worship other things.
Other activities, other relationships, other gods.
You tell us we cannot serve two masters,
Yet we spend more time focusing our energies elsewhere,
Diverting our time, our energy, our money, our attention away from you.
Forgive us, gracious Savior,
When our hearts are led astray
When we serve other gods and worship them.
We turn away from our distractions and sin.
Strengthen us to set our faces toward Jerusalem,
To take up our cross and follow you.
We pray this, counting on your grace. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

+SUNG RESPONSE

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

HALLE HALLE



Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah! Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah!
Halle-lujah!
hal-le -



Halle, halle, hal - le - lu - jah! Halle - lujah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
hal le -

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all.

And also with you.

Grace Notes

The affirmation of faith is adapted (except the last three paragraphs) from the Mennonite Confession of Faith.

Although not a constitutional document of the PC(USA), our commitment to interfaith partnership and learning opens our liturgy to the wisdom of other traditions.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:26-31

SERMON

"You Have Heard It Said"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from Mennonite Confession of Faith

We believe that God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and that God preserves and renews what has been made.

All creation ultimately has its source outside itself and belongs to the Creator. The world has been created good because God is good and provides all that is needed for life.

We believe that the universe has been called into being as an expression of God's love and sovereign freedom alone.

Creation witnesses to the eternal power and divine nature of God, who gives meaning and purpose to life and who alone is worthy of worship and praise.

We give thanks for the gifts of moral and scientific knowledge.

Moral knowledge guides us toward life in harmony with God's creation and reminds us of our responsibility to God's good works.

Scientific knowledge gives us insight and understanding of the beautiful complexity of creation and opens our hearts and minds to wonder and awe.

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

Grace Notes

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!

†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

†PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

†PARTING HYMN #508 *"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"* KINGDOM

†CHARGE & BENEDECTION

†POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY are Rev. Michael Gallup, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist Ray Stephens, and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

PASTOR ROBERT is in Mississippi this weekend. He will be back in the office on Monday and in the pulpit next week.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

ADULT CLASS SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 Be part of a different kind of conversation— one that welcomes every perspective in a search for the deeper truths that unite us. The theme this month is Peacemaking; the adult class will consider many facets of peacemaking in September. This is the month when Westover Hills joins a host of organizations throughout Arkansas who observe the UN International Day of Peace and Arkansas Peace Week (September 17-24). Class meets in the New Chapel and by Zoom.

- September 10– Peace Week Observance– Bob Estes
- September 17– Intro to Peacemaking and Gun Violence Prevention– Pastor Robert
- September 24– Insights from the PCUSA Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention
- October 1– Responsible Gun Ownership– conversation with WHPC folks who own guns

2ND WEDNESDAY SPIRITUALITY GROUP Just a reminder that the Second Wednesday Spirituality Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:45pm in the New Chapel. Some upcoming dates are September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13. If you would like more information or need directions to the New Chapel, you may contact H.K. Stewart. We hope to see you all there!

JOINT HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY– DAY AND EVENING CIRCLES The 2023-24 Horizons Bible study will begin on Monday, September 11th at 6:30pm in the New Chapel– with a “Come, all ye women!” meeting. All women– including morning circle members, night circle members, visitors, friends who haven’t visited yet– are invited! Study books will be available on Sunday morning for \$10 for regular print and \$15 for large print. You may get with Kay Stephens to purchase a book..

STEWPOD NEEDS YOUR HELP Barbara Polite (head of the clothes closet for Stewpot) is not able to help out at the moment. We need volunteers on Tuesdays 9:00-11:00 and on Thursdays from 9:00-1:00. Please contact Nancy Sherman Carter if you are able to help out; her email is nesherman57@yahoo.com.

2023 TREATS AND TREASURES FINAL NUMBERS The WHPC Presbyterian Women (PW) are pleased to announce that the August Treats & Treasures sale netted \$16,339.01 to be used for PW mission efforts in the coming year. The net sum remains after expenses were deducted from the gross sales of \$19,796.00. Please stay tuned for news of mission made possible by your Huge efforts to donate, organize, and sell the shiny, clean wares that filled the fellowship hall, chapel, and hallways.

MIDWEEK MANNA is returning this week on Wednesday, September 6th at 12:05pm in the New Chapel.

YOGA will be returning this week on Thursday, September 7th at 10:00am, in the New Chapel. No experience is required; all you need to bring is a yoga mat and a clear mind.

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 or on Twitter @ChurchWestover

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Rev. Carol– Ann Blow (health issues); Duke and Barbara Monroe (Barbara is waiting to move to Long Term care and Duke is caring for her until then); Ralph Cotham (in the hospital for testing); Jane Johnson (Susan Mauney’s sister; hip replacement; Richard Johnson (Susan Mauney’s brother-in-law; foot surgery); the people impacted by wildfires in Presbytery of South Louisiana; FPC DeRidder, Louisiana and the Korean New Worshipping Community of DeRidder (providing shelter and support for evacuees; Johnny Rhodes; 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; the people of Maui (wildfires); Linda Maddux (Carmen Stokes’s 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; at home); George Ngundune (Christiana Esem-Kuwong’s grandson in Missouri, undiagnosed illness); 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 SEPTEMBER are Charlotte Frith and Kay McCollum

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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