

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

A SERVICE OF WORD

OCTOBER 15, 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.

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Michael Gallup

PRELUDE

"In Christ Alone"

Arranged by Sandra Zylstra

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, H.K. Stewart

How precious, how fragile, how short is life!

Our lives are but a breath.

The Divine brings us into being,

Weaves our lives together,

And ushers us into eternal rest.

Blessed are the Sacred rhythms of life

And holy are these tasks:

To be alive,

To pay attention,

To honor the fleeting with awe and care.

When the way is difficult and dangerous,

Let us choose what is good and just.

When evil comes to break us down and break us apart,

Let us still choose to carry on with each other.

When power strikes fear into our hearts,

Let us still choose the courage to persist.

For we know the love and power of God, which abides in us, will not be overcome.

†OPENING PRAYER

Christ Jesus,

We come into your presence

From many different places.

We come with songs of joy

And shouts of gratitude.

We come carrying heavy burdens

And sighs of suffering.

As you welcome us into your house,

Lift our burdens

And receive our praise..

Salt us with your grace

And flavor us with your mercy.

Grace Notes

Bind us together,
That we may be at peace with one another
And be strengthened to go forth
In service to the world.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.

+SONG OF PRAISE “*All Creatures of Our God and King*” #453

MORNING SONG

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers, sisters, and siblings 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 The gifts of God are eternal and will never be withdrawn.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 CONFESSION

God of Justice,
God of Compassion,
God of Sacred and Scandalous ways,
We have so much still to learn.

By your grace, we have come to know love more deeply.

Its mess, its complexity, its stubborn and tender truths transform us more each day.

Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us.

You draw us into the heart of Wisdom,

Saving us from the lies of destruction.

Turning us towards hope that liberates.

But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you.

And so, when we are afraid. Or hurt, Or weary...

We betray the very One who brought us thus far.

We confess, we still shame Jesus when he turns over tables. We confess; we still condemn Jesus when he breaks the rules to which we are loyal.

We confess; while Jesus is sitting lonely on the street with no family to welcome him home,

Our loyalties are often elsewhere.

Our priorities are not your own.

Search our hearts, O God, and see if there is any fear within us.

Meet us there with your good news that sets the captives free.

Grace Notes

Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

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!

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

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

And also with you.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Be Thou My Vision" #339

SLANE

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ruth 1:1-18

SERMON

"Found Family"

Reverend Michael Gallup

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #438*

DENNIS

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The New Creed

(1968)

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,

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 Rev. Michael Gallup know. We would love to tell you more about life at WHPC!

to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" Arranged by Sandra Zylstra

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you. O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my soul. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness only light, and where there's sadness ever joy. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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.**

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

†PARTING HYMN "This Is My Maker's World" #293

AZMON

†CHARGE & BENEEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MIDWEEK MANNA has returned! Manna takes place every Wednesday at 12:05 in the New Chapel and via Zoom. Midweek Manna will be focusing on the Parables of Jesus this fall. All are invited whether you have been to a class or not. See CareLine for the Zoom link.

YOGA has returned and takes place every Thursday at 10am in the New Chapel. Yoga is for everyone, whether you are an expert or you have no experience. All you need to bring is a yoga mat and an open mind.

ADULT CLASS SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 During Reformation Month, October, the adult class will consider several Protestant traditions:

October 22- Distinctive characteristics of Reformed tradition within Protestantism; Pentecostalism- Pastor Robert

October 29- Early Protestant Reformed tradition- what are we still protesting 500 years later? Is there a compelling reason to be a denomination?- Pastor Robert

See CareLine for Zoom link to adult classes.

2ND WEDNESDAY SPIRITUALITY GROUP Please join us for our Second Wednesday Spirituality Group on November 8, at 5:45pm in the New Chapel. If you need directions or more information, you may contact H.K. Stewart.

FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY BOOK GROUP AT SECOND PRES Pastor Robert will be leading this multi-church reading group during the fall. The book for fall is *Eat This Book: The Art of Spiritual Reading*, by Eugene Peterson. The book group meets in the Second Hall at 2nd Presbyterian at 9:30am on the first and third Monday of each month. All are welcome, so come join us for a great book and even better discussions.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET Coming soon in November is the WH Annual Alternative Christmas Market on Saturday, November 11 from 9am-3pm and on Sunday, November 12 following worship until 2pm. Come shop for a Christmas gift that gives twice. More information will follow soon with a special ACM announcement.

STEWPOUT CLOTHES CLOSET Stewpot is in need, 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!

STEWPOUT 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

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

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Courtenay Jackson; Debbie Waltermire (friend of Betty Deere; diagnosed with breast cancer); Barbara Polite (manager of Stewpot Clothes Closet; neurological issues); Jason Chrisman (son of Mary Chrisman); Barbara Monroe and her husband Duke who has been her caretaker (Barbara has moved into in home hospice); Douglas Ponce (director of El Zocalo; his mother is hospitalized in El Salvador); The Garcia family (friends of Sydney; recent loss of daughter/sister and father is recovering in the hospital from 2 strokes); Mary Ellen Holder; Vivianna McAtee; Jonathon Simpson (recovering from kidney transplant surgery); Amber Simpson (donated her kidney to her brother Jonathon); Amy Crawford, who died October 1; Jim Miller (broken ankle; at home); Lila Quinn; Deran Abernathy (son-in-law of former member Judy Huffman; stage 4 lung cancer); Rev. Carol Ann Blow (health issues); Johnny Rhodes; Anna Grace Clark (brain cancer); Reverend Doug Kanney (heart issues); Those affected by wildfires in the United States; Preschool staff, children and parents; Church staff: Pastor Robert Lowry, Rev. Michael Gallup, Ulysses, Shawn, Tammy, David and Sydney.

DEACONS FOR OCTOBER are Laura Whitmore and Joy Thomas.

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



Westover Hills Presbyterian
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1948-2023

WHPC CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY, SERVICE, AND FELLOWSHIP THIS DECEMBER. IN THE COMING WEEKS, BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE IN THE CELEBRATION OF OUR HISTORY AND OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.