

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

*“How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart winces within me;
my compassion grows warm and
tender.” ~ Hosea 11*

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

A SERVICE OF THE WORD

NOVEMBER 12, 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

Dr. Robert Wm Lowry

PRELUDE

"The Greatest Love of These"

David Austin, Music Director

arr. Hugh Livingston

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Shirley Garlington, Liturgist

A day that begins with sunlight,

Is a day that begins with God's love.

A day that begins with storm clouds,

Is a day that begins with God's love.

Let us rejoice in the day that the Lord has made!

Alleluia! Alleluia, amen!

+OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,

we sometimes wonder why our lives take the paths they do.

We seem to find ourselves in all

sorts of situations we had never envisaged,

and we wonder what You are doing with us.

Keep close to us, we pray,

and give us the faith to trust You, for whatever happens.

Then, in Your providence,

show us more of Your glory and grace,

so that we may be encouraged, and praise You forever: Amen.

+SONG OF PRAISE #85 *"What Wondrous Love Is This"* WONDROUS LOVE

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, we are complicated creatures. We have the capacity to love and to disdain, a propensity to cherish and ignore, a willingness to see what we want and be blind to what we do not.

We are at times sinners and saints, heroes, heroines, and heretics.

But at all times, in every moment of every day of creation, we are children of God. And as children of God we are children of God's compassion. Together, with confidence that God's word of mercy is true, let us acknowledge where we fall short of the glory of God and recall where the mercy of God touches our lives.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Voice 1: Jesus calls us to love God with all our hearts, our soul, and our mind.

Voice 2: All our hearts, soul, and mind? More than our families and friends, our homes, our jobs, our cars...even our phones? More than our opinions and ideas? More than the things we invest our energy in that bring us happiness on our own terms?

Grace Notes

In some ways, responsive confession is more true to our Reformed understanding of the nature of confession and pardon because it levels the roles of leader and congregation. Forgiveness comes from God and not from any person. When we pray in dialogue or in unison, we remember that we are all part of the larger priesthood of all believers.

Voice 1: More than all of these because when we love God with all our heart, mind, and soul, it is the creative life-giving love of God that inspires us and shapes us. It is the justice-driven love of God that gives us hearts of compassion and wisdom.

All: Forgive us, O God when we fail to put love first in our lives.

Voice 1: Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Voice 2: All our neighbors?

Voice 1: All of them.

Voice 2: Even the ones who...

Voice 1: Yes, even those because when we love God with all our heart, it is that love which influences us and enables us to act lovingly towards not only family and friends—who may be easy to love—but towards others who may not be so easy to love.

All: Forgive us, O God when we fail to put love first in our lives.

Voice 1: God of love and mercy, forgive us as only you can and love us as only you do. Strengthen us by your spirit to love you with heart and soul and mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Help us to know the peace of your forgiving love. Amen.

Silence is kept.

+ SING RESPONSE “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

+ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Grace Notes

The Hebrew prophet Hosea also known as Osee, son of Beer, was an 8th Century BCE prophet in Israel.

Hosea is often seen as a prophet of doom because of the harsh words of condemnation for the unfaithfulness of the people and the divine wrath of God.

Underneath, however, there is an undercurrent of hope in restoration of both the nation and the relationship of the people with God. Although the people have wandered away, God is steadfast.

+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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Hosea 11:1-11

*When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
The more I called them,
the further they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and they burned incense to idols.
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up in my arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.
I led them
with bands of human kindness,
with cords of love.
I treated them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks;
I bent down to them and fed them.
They will return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria will be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
The sword will strike wildly in their cities;
it will consume the bars of their gates
and will take everything because of their schemes.
My people are bent on turning away from me;
and though they cry out to the Most High,
he will not raise them up.
How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart winces within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
I won't act on the heat of my anger;
I won't return to destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not a human being,
the holy one in your midst;
I won't come in harsh judgment.
They will walk after the Lord,
who roars like a lion.
When he roars,
his children will come trembling from the west.
They will come trembling like a bird,
and like a dove from the land of Assyria;
and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.*

Grace Notes

What John Calvin said about Psalm 31:5 can be applied to this paraphrase of the psalm as a whole: it is one the places in scripture “most suitable for correcting mistrust.”

*Ephraim has surrounded me with lies,
the house of Israel with faithless acts;
but Judah still walks with God,
and is faithful to the holy one.*


SERMON

“Loved in Spite of Ourselves”

Dr. Lowry

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

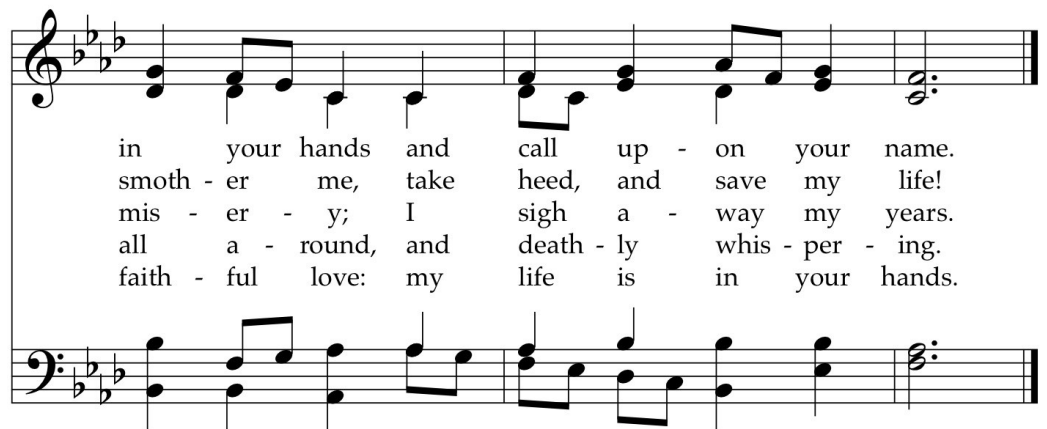
†HYMN OF RESPONSE “You Are My Refuge Faithful God” MORNING SONG



1 You are my ref - uge, faith - ful God; you
2 De - liv - er me from hid - den snares, from
3 Be gra - cious, God, in my dis - tress, and
4 I am a wretch - ed sight to see: a
5 And yet I trust in you, O God; your



shel - ter me from shame. I put my spir - it
sor - row, pain, and strife. When trou - bles seem to
dry my bit - ter tears. My life is spent in
bro - ken, emp - ty thing, with on - ly ter - ror
cov - e - nant still stands. Re - deem me, in your



in your hands and call up - on your name.
smoth - er me, take heed, and save my life!
mis - er - y; I sigh a - way my years.
all a - round, and death - ly whis - per - ing.
faith - ful love: my life is in your hands.

Grace Notes

Adopted in 2006, A Song of Faith is written as an ongoing reflection of faith in the context of history. It was written not only as a confession of faith in the moment but as a means of ongoing reflection and an invitation to the church to live out its convictions in the world.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From “Song of Faith” United Church of Canada

**We sing of God the Spirit,
who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation,
animating all energy and matter
and moving in the human heart.**

**We sing of God the Spirit,
faithful and untameable,
who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.**

**The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy
not only in what is familiar,
but also in that which seems foreign.**

**We sing of the Spirit,
who speaks our prayers of deepest longing
and enfolds our concerns and confessions,
transforming us and the world.**

**Through word, music, art, and sacrament,
in community and in solitude,
God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Deep Peace”

Douglas E. Wagner

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

*Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the
shining stars.*

Deep peace of the valleys green to you.

Deep peace of the warming sun to you.

Deep peace of the cool of night to you.

Deep peace when our work is done.

Deep peace, deep peace, deep peace to you.

Deep peace, the deep peace of Christ be yours this day.

*Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you, deep peace of all
things above to you.*

*Deep peace of a guiding hand to you, deep peace of the
Savior's love.*

Deep peace to you.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

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.**

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!

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

+PARTING HYMN #276 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" FAITHFULNESS
+CHARGE & BENEEDICTION
+POSTLUDE "Postludium" G. Young

Don't forget...

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Today is the Westover Hills Annual Alternative Christmas Market following worship until 2pm. Come shop for a Christmas gift that gives twice. Take time to shop and have a hot dog lunch sponsored by David Austin and the choir on Sunday following worship. Donations will be accepted for the Muse Concert, which provides education through the arts and music for young women.

WORSHIP NOTES

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

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MIDWEEK MANNA will be taking a break until November 29th.

YOGA 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 AT 9:00 IN THE NEW CHAPEL Adult class is held in the New Chapel every Sunday at 9:00am prior to worship. The topics for this month are:

- November 19– Why it's important to be a responsible new consumer– journalist and Westover Hills member Celia Storey
- November 26– Christ the King– How to read the Bible with the newspaper in hand– Robert

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESTOVER HILLS The Stewardship and Finance committee is hosting a fellowship potluck lunch following worship on November 19th to kick-off the celebration of our 75th anniversary of the congregation at Westover Hills! The church will provide a selection of meats; church families are asked to bring two dishes and single congregants to bring one dish of vegetables, salads or desserts. We look forward to our time together to celebrate our past and future.

2ND WEDNESDAY SPIRITUALITY GROUP Please join us for our Second Wednesday Spirituality Group on December 13, 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.

STEW POT 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!

STEWSPOT NEEDS YOUR HELP Barbara Polite (head of the clothes closet for Stewspot) 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

NEW ONLINE GIVING You can now make donations online! By donating you can choose to give to Westover Hills and/or our nested New Worship communities, The Table and The Queer Collective. You may find the link in the CareLine, and simply just click the “funds” tab to pick which you’d like to give to. You can make a one-time donation or schedule a recurring gift. Also, by setting up an account, you can keep up with your digital records online. Our communities are so grateful for your generosity and hope this platform is helpful for you.

VERA LLOYD TURKEY TROT Fall means cooler weather, turning leaves, and the annual Vera Lloyd Turkey Trot! You can find the link to sign up in the CareLine.

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.

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS Catherine Lowry (Pastor Robert’s mother now home recovering from a recent stroke); Judy Lyle; Kristi Craddock (cousin of Cindy Hamilton; in critical condition in the ICU); Family of Ralph Cotham, who died on October 10; Courtenay Jackson; Debbie Waltermire (friend of Betty Deere; diagnosed with breast cancer); Barbara Polite (manager of Stewspot Clothes Closet; neurological issues); Jason Chrisman (son of Mary Chrisman); Duke Monroe and family (death of Duke’s wife, Barbara, on October 29); Douglas Ponce (director of El Zocalo; his mother is hospitalized in El Salvador); The Garcia family (friends of Sydney); 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 NOVEMBER are John MacLeod, Ann Bell, and Marcey Berry

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

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