



# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Do Justice · Love Kindness · Walk Humbly

## The Service of Worship

May 24, 2020 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

#### ORGAN PRELUDES

Variations on *Christus, der ist mein Leben* (Christ is my life) Johann Pachelbel  
Prelude on O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High (*Deo Gracias*) David N. Johnson

GREETING Cherrie Barton Henry

#### MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! Nicaea  
Eternal Father, Strong to Save Melita  
*Jack Walker, trumpet*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (*Adapted from Psalm 47*) Mark Foskey

God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises!**

The Lord Most High is awesome. God is king over every nation.

**Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

THE HYMN NO. 826 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS Crucifer

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THE ACT OF CONFESSION Alex Stayer-Brewington

Why do we confess our sin?

**Because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

But why do we do this together?

**Because we are a community, a covenant people.**

Then let us confess our sin.

Blessed Lord, you came and dwelt among us. You have healed us. You have laughed with us, and you have cried with us. And yet, we have neglected to love you and our neighbor in kind. We confess that we have mistaken your Ascension for absence, believing the world to be a place devoid of your Spirit. As a result, we treat your creation and our neighbors as objects to be used rather than subjects to be adored. Forgive us on those days when we look to a distant heaven and forget the sacred reality of the present. Forgive us for forgetting that when you made us you called us “good.”

Send us your Spirit, and teach us to see. May the vision of your goodness inspire us to works of beauty, service, and love. Amen.

#### A TIME OF PERSONAL SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON arr. David N. Johnson

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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#### THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### THE GLORIA PATRI NO. 581

### PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SHARING OUR MISSION Opportunities to Serve

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Marietta Wynands

*Watch the story of the Ascension in this Godly Play video:*

<https://youtu.be/8O6NE-UBQEA>

#### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 17: 1-11

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Acts 1: 6-14

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON “From the Bottoms of Our Feet” Cherrie Barton Henry

#### MOMENTS OF SILENCE

THE HYMN NO. 662 CHRIST, WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES Ratisbon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

Chris Tuttle

The church is marked by the Holy Spirit. Across the centuries since the church was founded, the Spirit has formed and identified it. We recognize the true church of Jesus Christ wherever the work of the Spirit is evident: in preaching and sacraments, in the new life and continuous growth of believers, in the sharing of spiritual gifts and material things, in mission and service to the world. The boundaries of the church are not clearly known to us, but God knows those who are his.

IN OUR PRAYERS

*Individuals on our prayer list will be prayed for by first name only to protect privacy. If you or someone you know needs our prayers, please send an email to [prayersandcares@wpcdurham.org](mailto:prayersandcares@wpcdurham.org), and it will be received by our staff and Congregational Care Committee.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING

*You may give your offering through our website at [www.wpcdurham.org/give](http://www.wpcdurham.org/give), or through your myWPC account. For questions regarding online giving, please email Sharon Morgan ([sharon@wpcdurham.org](mailto:sharon@wpcdurham.org)).*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION

MUSICAL BLESSING

THE HYMN No. 752 DONA NOBIS PACEM (GRANT US PEACE) Dona Nobis Pacem

~ ~ ~

*Unless otherwise noted, music and text used are in the public domain.*

## **WESTMINSTER Presbyterian Church**

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919-489-4974 | [www.wpcdurham.org](http://www.wpcdurham.org)

Facebook: [@wpcdurham](https://www.facebook.com/wpcdurham) Facebook Group: [Families of WPC Durham](https://www.facebook.com/familiesofwpcdurham)

Instagram: [@wpcdurham](https://www.instagram.com/wpcdurham), [@wpcdurhamyouth](https://www.instagram.com/wpcdurhamyouth)

YouTube: [Westminster Presbyterian Church](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwpcdurham)

Westminster School for Young Children - Facebook & Instagram: [@wsycurham](https://www.facebook.com/wsycurham)

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### **An Update from Duke University Campus Ministry+**

*From Libby Boehne, Campus Minister*

The work of Duke Presbyterian Campus Ministry+ is to walk alongside students through the journey of college, and we explore together what it means to follow Christ on a university campus.

Nothing can replace having meals together, being in the chapel basement office, or passing the peace of Christ during a worship service. But since our separation in March, we are adapting, and Zoom has become indispensable for us! The programming and ministry of PCM+ is continuing through weekly worship, Bible study, individual and group hangouts, and mid-day prayer via Zoom. It is a challenge and joy to have dozens of faces from across the country crammed together on one screen every week, but staying connected to a faith community in times like these matters more than ever for college students.

The ministry so values your prayers and support, and there are two ways we ask that you pray for us and the Duke University community right now. First, pray for our seniors as they deal with the disappointment of not finishing their time at Duke in-person and navigate finding jobs and making plans. Second, there have been two suicides of Duke undergraduates recently, and it is difficult for many students to be separated from one another in their grief. Please pray that we would be able to know how to bring this faith community together in even stronger ways through this difficult time. Once again, thank you for your support and care, and we hold you in prayer as well.

**PLEASE NOTE: Despite the lifting of some restrictions by Governor Cooper, Westminster's campus remains closed through June 28.**

**Only essential personnel are permitted on campus during this time.**

*Thanks for your understanding.*

Refrain  
Descant

# Lift High the Cross 826

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*to Refrain*

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.  
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

# Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;  
2 Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - panied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of Righ - teous - ness, a - rise; tri - umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740  
MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON  
7.7.7.7.7

# *Dona nobis pacem* 752

*Sim shalom*

*Rabbu habna salamann tamman*

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (A)

F C F C

\*1

Latin Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.  
 Hebrew Sim sha-lom, sim sha-lom, sim sha - lom.  
 Arabic Rab - bu hab - na sa - la - mann tam - man.

\*2

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

\*3

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

(G) (D) (A) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F C F

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.  
 Sim sha - lom a - lei - nu.  
 Rab - bu hab - na sa - la - mann.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

\*May be sung as a canon.



## MAY 24 WEEKLY UPDATE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to learn, serve, worship, and stay connected

**Nominations for Elders and Deacons** The Nominating Committee has begun its quest to identify five new elders (four adults, one youth) and eight new deacons (seven adults, one youth) to serve in the class of 2023. We are also searching for an individual to complete the one-year term of an elder who moved out-of-state. Elders compose the Session, the main governing body in the Presbyterian Church, and are responsible for worship, programs, finances, and facilities. The Diaconate largely guides our mission life and the way we care for each other. Both work in partnership with the staff to discern and lead the mission and ministries of this place as we seek to follow Christ together. This is an important opportunity to serve the church in meaningful ways and be a part of God's vision for Westminster. The congregation is invited to submit nominations; please email them to [nominations@wpcdurham.org](mailto:nominations@wpcdurham.org). **Contact:** Carol Mansfield ([carol.anne.mansfield@gmail.com](mailto:carol.anne.mansfield@gmail.com))



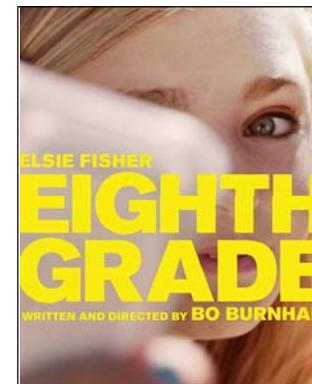
**COVID-19 Relief Fund** Some folks in the congregation have voiced an interest in donating the COVID-19 stimulus check money they received to those in the community with greater needs. Though this may not be the case for everyone, if this resonates with you and you'd like to give a portion or all of your relief check to the church, members of our Local Missions Committee and the Session have formed a COVID-19 Fund Task Force to research and direct funds collected to the most needy of our Durham nonprofits. This isn't a campaign or drive on Westminster's part, but a response to those who have asked for a vehicle to put the funds they've received to good purposes. If you find yourself in the same place, you are welcomed to contribute. Please mail a check to the church (put "COVID19 Relief Fund" in the memo line), or visit <https://www.wpcdurham.org/give/> to contribute online (choose COVID19 Relief Fund from the drop-down list of funds available). Thank you!

**Serve with Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel** We're a few weeks into our effort to join with our other Durham PC (USA) congregations to help Iglesia Emanuel with its very needed, very popular food pantry and food distribution. Volunteers are needed to direct traffic, count vehicles, and load trunks of cars on Wednesday afternoons. Any volunteers age 14 and up can help on-site. There is also a work-from-home opportunity to bag rice and beans for the weekly food distribution – it's great for adults that are staying in and families with children. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/HelpIglesia>. **Contact:** Cherrie Barton Henry ([cherrie@wpcdurham.org](mailto:cherrie@wpcdurham.org))



### Check it out! Good Stuff for WPC Youth and Their Parents

- **"8th Grade: A Frank Conversation About a Curious Time"** Let's be honest: 8th grade is weird for everybody, even (maybe especially) parents. Let's get together to talk about it. **Parents** of rising 8th and 9th Graders are invited to watch the 2018 film "8th Grade" ([view the trailer](#)). We'll gather on Zoom on Wednesday, May 27, at 7:30pm, to discuss both the movie and the actual 8th grade. Email Alex for the Zoom meeting invitation or if you have any questions. (Please note: This is a discussion for grown folks! This movie is rated R and ironically, might not be appropriate for every middle schooler. Contact Alex for more details.)
- **Gathering for Parents of High Schoolers** As Christians, we never walk alone. We go with Christ, and we go with one another. This is a tremendous comfort when we reach uncharted waters - and we are definitely in uncharted waters right now. All parents of high-schoolers are invited to this Zoom conversation on June 3, at 7:30pm.
- **An Art Contest!** In honor of the close of the Easter season and the beginning of summer, our theme is "God Bless the Grass." All youth are invited to submit art exploring themes found in Malvina Reynolds' song "God Bless the Grass." We're inviting entries in four different categories: Photography, film/video, paintings/drawings, and other forms (poems, plays, cakes, statues, dances, and anything else you can think of). Submissions are due by Sunday, May 31. There will be prizes!
- **Attention, parents of high school and college seniors!** Plans are in the works to honor our seniors next month. If you have a high school or college senior in the family, please email Alex with pictures, stories, facts, etc. that we could share with the congregation. Please send your materials to Alex by Wednesday, June 3.



### Send Love to Our Christian Education Teachers & Leaders: Final Call for Submissions!

As we wrap up this year of Christian formation in this challenging time, we want to make sure we send our thanks to all those who have taken leadership roles in our Christian Education ministries. That includes our Church School teachers for all ages, midweek Bible study groups, Godly Play leaders and assistants, music leaders, and our nursery caregivers. This year we'd like to celebrate and thank these leaders for their time, talents, and patience by putting together a special message of thanks that includes video, art, and photos. Please send a brief video (10 seconds or less) thanking your or your child's leaders or a photo of art your child has made



offering thanks. We welcome creativity! All pictures, art, and videos may be uploaded to this [shared Google Drive folder](#) or emailed to Dawn Wilcox ([dawnkwilcox@gmail.com](mailto:dawnkwilcox@gmail.com)) by Monday, May 25. Teacher Appreciation Sunday is Pentecost, May 31.

**Need a Hymnal at Home?** With the crisis ongoing and the likelihood we'll be worshipping off-site for some time, you may be interested in purchasing your own copy of our Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*, for use at home. Monica Rossman, our Music Minister, says *Glory to God* can be a useful devotional tool for either music or text sources (or both); you don't have to be a choir member to appreciate the wonderful resources it offers. Hymnals are available from the PC(USA) online store for \$18 each. You may [order your copy here](#). If you would like to have a hymnal at home, but cannot afford to purchase at this time, please contact Monica and an order will be placed on your behalf. **Contact:** Monica Rossman ([monica@wpcdurham.org](mailto:monica@wpcdurham.org))

**Attention, WPC Family: Need an Extra Hand?** Do you need a facemask or help getting groceries? There are Westminster members willing to provide these for you. Email us at [westminster@wpcdurham.org](mailto:westminster@wpcdurham.org), and we'll make the connection!



**WPC Online School in June: Explore Core Practices of the Christian Life** What are essential practices for a Christian way of living? In this course, you'll gain perspectives on prayer, food, worship, sacraments, money, service, and community. In our second all-online course, [Animate: Practices](#), you'll watch several short videos taught by well-known Christian thought leaders, including Brian McLaren, Mike Slaughter, Shane Claiborne, and more. After watching a video segment, you'll spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and have the opportunity to read and respond to your classmates' writings as well. Each Monday in June at 7:00pm, join your classmates via Zoom to continue to explore the practices together (June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29). These classes are great for anyone, whether you are newer to the Christian walk or have journeyed many miles. Register now at <https://bit.ly/WPCOnlineschool>. **Contact:** Marietta Wynands ([marietta@wpcdurham.org](mailto:marietta@wpcdurham.org))

**Registration is OPEN for MISSION-X, a Habitat for Humanity Mission Experience@Home!** Sign up at <https://bit.ly/WPCMissionX> for any or all of three phases of construction: Week 1 - June 21 - 28; Week 2 - July 19-26; and/or Week 3 - August 9 - 16. Every "crew" (that's you!) receives a crate with all the blueprints and supplies needed to carry out a week's worth of projects at home. The construction site is your house and backyard! Each phase begins with an opening event and closing celebration. We'll use Zoom as needed, but hope to meet in person for later phases. More details to come after you register! **Contact** "Contractor" Dawn Wilcox with questions (919-641-2858, [dawnkwilcox@gmail.com](mailto:dawnkwilcox@gmail.com))



#### **April Financial Update** From Dave Pottenger, Chair, Ways & Means Commission

Our Operating Revenues, primarily funded by individuals' pledge fulfillments, have remained extraordinarily strong, running significantly ahead of this time last year. People have been very diligent about continuing to fund their pledge commitment, with several choosing to pay their entire 2020 pledge early. We are deeply grateful for everyone's continuing generosity. Your commitment allows Westminster to actively fulfill its mission daily.

Our YTD Operating Expenses have come in under budget due largely to the campus closure. We have, however, maintained our benevolent giving at budgeted levels. We are grateful for our staff's attention to details in managing our expenditures.

The funds we requested from the government's PPP program have been received and will allow us to fully meet our staff payroll needs for both the church and preschool. Several months ago we began an effort to increase the level of financial and governance integration between these two organizations, and this has been very helpful during this time of uncertainty. These PPP funds will provide us with much-appreciated financial flexibility as the year unfolds.

The Fellowship Hall project continues on-schedule and on-budget. We are grateful for the diligence of CT Wilson's team tasked with building this wonderful structure, and for the oversight provided by WPC's Fellowship Hall Building Committee. As per our financial plan, we are now beginning to tap the loan facility established at the beginning of the project. Interest on that debt will be paid out of a separate fund, and not the Operating funds, for the next 12-18 months. We hope to grow this separate fund for longer debt servicing needs over the next year or two.

In summary, WPC is in extraordinary financial shape at this time, and that is due to the bountiful generosity shown by the members of this church. We are hopeful this time of uncertainty is moving closer to an end, and the journey of rebuilding will soon commence. Your support has been, and remains, greatly appreciated.

**Things to listen to, read, and do during quarantine** This week Monica shares a music recommendation: "I love this recording of Samuel Barber's *Agnes dei*, which is a choral transcription of his famous *Adagio for Strings*. It is so gorgeous, and so profoundly moving and sorrowful... It always brings me comfort. During these difficult times, I find myself drawn to music that is deeply mournful and yet peaceful. This may not be the case for others, but I am not ready for joyous or energetic music right now. I await that time with hope!" Listen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOWRW8ee4S8>.

Be sure to also check out Monica's blog post this month for another recommendation: "[Why We Need Handel's Messiah Now.](#)"

What's giving you peace, joy, or laughter during these times? Email your suggestions to [westminster@wpcdurham.org](mailto:westminster@wpcdurham.org), and we'll share them in our church communications.

*Messiah  
an Oratorio*