



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Do Justice · Love Kindness · Walk Humbly

September 12, 2021, 11:00am
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Service of Worship

* Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Please observe silence and turn off all mobile devices during the preludes.

Large print Bibles and hymnals, and assistive listening devices are available upon request. Please see an usher.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

ORGAN PRELUDES

Reflection on *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Song of Creation

Monica Umstaedt Rossman

Charles Callahan

Alec Rowley

“I All Creation sing my song of praise to God who made me and vouchsafes my days.”

— C. Rossetti

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alex Stayer-Brewington

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his Name.

In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream.

He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways.

He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay.

One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread.

My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days,

O may thy house be my abode and all my work be praise.

There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come,

No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

Southern tune *Resignation*; arr. by Virgil Thomson

Paraphrase of Psalm 23 by Isaac Watts

Ensemble: Bill Fine, Betty Berghaus, Davis Bingham, Pru Meyer, Kathe Graves, Chuck Byrd, Tom Truscott, Monica Rossman, Stephanie Casale, Becky Gollmar, Monica Rossman, Helen Harrison, Mark Foskey, Cherrie Barton Henry, Ellen Vogel

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* THE CALL TO WORSHIP *From Psalm 116*

Judy Lamon

God has heard my voice. God has heard my supplication.

God's ear is inclined to me, therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray, save my life!”

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

Truly I believe — I walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

* THE HYMN NO. 15 ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

Lasst uns erfreuen

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.

Merciful God — You call to us, but we have refused to listen.

You reach out to us in love, but we have ignored you.

You invite us to lives of joy and peace, but we are seduced instead by anger and war.

Neighbors cry out in need, but we are too preoccupied with our own concerns to help.

Our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide.

Shine the light of your mercy and love upon us and set us free from a past we cannot change.

Forgive us our sins, and open to us a future of possibility and grace.

In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Comforter we pray. Amen.

A TIME OF PERSONAL 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

Welcome Thankam Rangala into Ministry at WPC

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Alex Stayer-Brewington

Following the Children's Message, children 4 yrs–1st grade are invited to Godly Play. Younger children may join the nursery in G7/playground.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Come and fill our hearts with your light. Come and fill our hearts with your love. Alleluia. Amen.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1.1-2.4a

ANTHEM

Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! (Psalm 148)

Music by Johann Steurlein, 1575

Sing praise to God, you heavens! Sing praise, each shining light!

Text by Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1998

Sing, planets in your orbits; sing, stars all burning bright!

Sing praise, you winds and tempests, you driving rain and snow!

Sing, clouds that race and billow and shadow earth below!

Sing praise, O earth, sing praises! Sing praises, hill and plain,

You mountains thrusting skyward, you valleys ripe with grain!

Sing praise, each fragrant flower; your fairest hues display.

Sing praise, you trees of autumn in glowing, glad array!

Sing praises, all you creatures in whom God takes delight:

You whales that roam the oceans, you eagles in your flight!

Sing praise, you sheep on hillsides, you cattle in the stall!

Though wordless, sing your praises to God who made you all!

Sing praises now, God's people; your gift of speech employ

To praise the Lord, your Maker, with thankfulness and joy!

Sing with the whole creation; a cosmic chorus raise:

“To God alone be glory and everlasting praise!”

Vocal Ensemble

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The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

“Merism. Pilgrims. Rest.”

Cherrie Barton Henry

MOMENTS OF SILENCE

* THE HYMN NO. 22 GOD OF THE SPARROW

Roeder

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* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From “A Declaration of Faith”

God created all the worlds that are and upholds and rules everything. We affirm that the universe exists by the power of God’s Word and Spirit. God has chosen to give it reality out of the love we have come to know in Christ. God still works through the processes that shape and change the earth and the living things upon it. We acknowledge God’s care and control in the regularity of the universe as well as in apparently random happenings. There is no event from which God is absent and his ultimate purpose in all events is just and loving. That purpose embraces our choices and will surely be accomplished. The Creator works in all things toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Please send prayer requests to prayersandcares@wpcdurham.org, and they will be received by our staff and Congregational Care Committee. If you have a confidential prayer concern or would like to receive the prayer list so you can pray for others, please contact Cherrie Barton Henry, 919-489-4974 ext 108 (office), 919-599-9406 (mobile), or cherrie@wpcdurham.org.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may place your offering into the basket at the Welcome Station, or give online at www.wpcdurham.org/give. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

COMMISSIONING OF TEACHERS & LEADERS & INTERN THANKAM RANGALA

Marietta Wynands, Alex Stayer-Brewington,
Cherrie Barton Henry

Leader: The work of your hands and hearts is sacred, for you will be tellers of the stories,
the proclaimers of God’s good news and acts of justice.

Teachers, Youth Leaders, and Intern: We will listen for God’s Word and tell of God’s glorious deeds.

Leader: There will be days you will doubt; times you will delight in wonder.

Congregation: We will pray for you and support you in your ministry with and among us.

Leader: Together we will grow in faith and strive to be disciples of Christ.

Teachers, Youth Leaders, and Intern: Together we will study and laugh, listen and learn.
Together we will honor our baptismal vows to care and nurture all of God’s people.

All: **Together we will know the pleasure of God’s goodness;
Together we will be the body of Christ in this generation.**

GO IN GOD’S NAME

* THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION

* MUSICAL BLESSING

Benediction

Peter C. Lukin

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

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*Ensemble: Stephanie Casale, Nancy Chaffee, Mark Foskey, Bill Fine, Cherrie Barton Henry, Tim Vann, Pru Meyer,
Kathe Graves, Tom Truscott, Helen Harrison, Chuck Byrd, Ellen Vogel, Monica Rossman, Jim Bear, Brad Davis, Pam Davis*

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Monica Umstaedt Rossman

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello





SEPTEMBER 12 WEEKLY UPDATE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to learn, worship, connect, and serve

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

TODAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Welcome Station Host Sam Bryan Jr
Attendance Station Host Peggy Force
Lector Judy Lamon
Ushers Page Page, Sarah & AJ Motsinger
Acolyte Lilly Motsinger
Sound Technician *Volunteer needed*
Live Stream Technician *Volunteer needed*

SEPTEMBER 19

Welcome Station Host Carol Mansfield
Attendance Station Host Ashley Barnes
Lector Dana Lange
Ushers Jami & Ally Howell
Sound Technician *Volunteer needed*
Live Stream Technician *Volunteer needed*

Your name here!

Fall 2021 Worship Volunteers Needed – Many Opportunities to Serve!

WPC staff and worship leaders are deep into fall worship planning and need your help! It takes a lot of volunteers to make worship happen! Please visit our online sign-ups to check out all the ways you can serve your church on Sunday mornings. We've grouped the volunteer needs by worship dates (rather than by role) to help you find multiple ways you can serve and maybe also partner with friends and/or family members to serve together. Sign up now at www.bit.ly/F21WorshipVolunteersIam.

We are especially in need of sound technicians and live stream technicians for our newly expanded Audio-Visual Team. Training is provided by experienced volunteers. Please contact Mark Hill (cmhill@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Godly Play Returns Today!

This morning following the Message for Children, children ages 4 through 1st grade are invited to come to a special time of worship called Godly Play. Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired method of teaching and learning that draws children into the stories and invites them to experience the Holy through creativity and imagination. Godly Play uses storytelling, reflection, art, writing, singing, and imaginative play to invite children into the story of God's people – our story! **NEW LOCATION:** To provide as much space and air circulation as possible, we will meet in the parlor! After worship, please wait outside, just beyond the parlor doors. After receiving a blessing, your child will be brought to you one by one.

WPC Youth Group: Gearing Up for a Brand New Year!

Youth Group is back! Join us TONIGHT as we kick off another great year of activities, and mark your calendar with these great events to come:

- First Youth Group Meeting of the Year:**
 Sunday, Sept. 12, 6-7:30pm
 We'll get together for an evening of reconnection and good times. We'll have a youth parents' meeting in the Sanctuary while the young folks are playing outside. We'll discuss summer trips, Covid protocol, and answer all your questions about everything that Westminster has to offer for young people. If you're the parent of someone in the Youth Group, please join us.
- High School Beach Retreat:** Friday, Oct. 15-17
 Hey high-schoolers, we're headed down to Wrightsville Beach for a weekend of rest and reflection! Space on this trip is very limited, so please mark your calendars and watch your email for details. Registration begins Monday, Sept. 13!
- College Conference @ Montreat:** Jan. 2-5
 This year, all former youth who have graduated from high school are invited to attend Montreat's College Conference. It's sort of like the high school conference, only smaller and catered to an older crowd. We've rented a beautiful house and are looking forward to reuniting with you in the mountains. If you're interested in learning more, please shoot Alex an email (alex@wpcdurham.org).



Recently, a group of youth and adults got together to begin the work of refurbishing the Youth Suite. We talked about what we like, what we don't, and envisioned a few things that could make our beloved Youth Suite more comfortable and inviting. Work is underway, but there's still time to help and plenty to do. Please contact Alex if you'd like to help.

Many prayers are going up for all of our youth starting a new year of school. Alex would love to hear how it's going so far – call or text him today.

Church School for Children & Youth Next Sunday — NEW Start Time & OUTSIDE!

Church School is an important way for children, youth, and adults to grow in their faith through age-appropriate faith forming classes and activities. In order to keep our children safer, we will meet outdoors and for a shorter period of time! Our groupings are flexible so that we can combine or separate groups as needed. **What to Bring:** Everyone should bring a mask & water bottle. Some should bring chairs — see next week's newsletter for more details.

- ⇒ **DROP OFF:** look for signage to help you find where your child or youth meets
- ⇒ **PICK UP:** 2 & 3 years through 2nd grades should be picked up from the playground at 10:45am

Sunday Morning Schedule Beginning Next Sunday - NEW START TIMES & LOCATIONS!

Church Nursery: 9:30am

Church School for Children & Youth: 10:00-10:45am

Godly Play for Children 4 years old–1st Grade: 11:15am following the Children's Message in the parlor



WPC Racial Equity News & Resources: Opportunities for Education and More

Holy Circles: An Opportunity to Connect with the Spirit in Community

A Holy Circle is a way to listen to what the Spirit is saying around a particular subject area. It is a way of sharing what is in our own heart about the matter and listening for what is in the hearts of others. Circles are open to all members of the congregation on a strictly voluntary basis. You do not have to do anything to prepare for a Holy Circle. Simply sign up if you feel drawn to the topic that is the focus and come with an open heart. People speak what is alive in them around the topic and listen when others speak. There is no discussion, no agreements, or next steps at the end. There is simply giving sacred space for the Spirit to speak through us and to us. The Holy Circles convened this year are part of the Racial Equity Team's effort to bring God's guidance to efforts to end racism and bring God's will to earth.

The focus for our September Holy Circle will be what troubles us about race, the wisdom we already have, and what support we still need. Sunday, September 26, from 3:00pm-4:30pm. Register [here](#).

This Fall: It's ALL about Pauli Murray!

Join us as we do a deep dive into all-things Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray! Read more about them [here](#) or listen to this NPR [podcast](#). Next, choose any of these great options to learn more:

- Pick up a library copy of Pauli Murray's biography, [Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family](#). Contact [Ruth Caccavale](#).
- *Proud Shoes* Bag-lunch Conversation: October 17 after worship
- Aperture with Jesse N. Huddleston on Pauli Murray: Wednesday, October 20
- Visit to the Pauli Murray House: October 23 or 24 (tbd)

TODAY: Experience the Black Farmer's Market!

Join your WPC friends on a trip to the [Black Farmer's Market](#) after worship today, September 12! If you're interested in carpooling, meet in the back parking lot near the basketball hoop at 1pm. Questions? Contact [Melinda Vaughn](#).

Update from the Covid Operations Committee: Our Masks, Vaccinations, and Music *Balancing Our Spiritual and Physical Health*

With the rise of the Delta variant of Covid and recently updated health guidance nationally and locally, maintaining safe practices is as important as ever. As we do so, we care for each other, and we get to worship with each other in even more spiritual ways.

As always, the Covid Operations Committee, supported by the Session, is seeking to actively balance the needs of our physical and spiritual health and will continue to evaluate our collective options in maintaining both. While the Delta variant is an increasing threat to everyone's health, especially those not yet vaccinated, we believe the threat can be addressed by ensuring we all follow some key guidelines:

- If we don't feel well in any way, or if we've been exposed to someone who has or is suspected to have Covid, we stay home and don't come to Westminster.
- When we do come to Westminster, we all properly wear our facemasks in the sanctuary and campus buildings, as well as outside on our campus.
- We'll sit spread out in the sanctuary and in every other pew row.
- We will continue to NOT sing as a congregation in worship services, though we can hum alongside our small choir and enjoy the opportunity to read and contemplate the beautiful poetry of our hymnal.

So, if you're feeling healthy, bring your good judgment, bring and wear your masks properly indoors and out, and bring your appreciation for each other's spiritual and physical well-being, and join us Sundays as we worship together.



Supporting Our Children's Physical Health in WPC Activities

As we move forward, we're also seeking to balance our children's and youth's spiritual and physical health. To ensure that balance, all paid direct caregivers (preschool teachers and nursery caregivers) have been required to be vaccinated since this spring. As we prepare for this fall and work through options for various children and youth activities, the Session has also approved a Covid committee-recommended volunteer caregiver vaccination policy. This updated policy, which became effective August 15, provides that all people, both volunteer and paid, must be fully vaccinated prior to providing direct childcare, including activity supervision. If you're considering volunteering for child-related activities but are not yet vaccinated, we ask that you delay your service until another, non-Covid time. More details will be shared as specific activities are organized.

Learn more about the Narrative Lectionary!

Beginning this Sunday our congregation will be using the Narrative Lectionary for our Sunday morning readings and as the backbone for our children's church school curriculum. The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. If you want to learn more about the Narrative Lectionary that Westminster is using in our Sunday worship and Christian Education program go to <https://www.workingpreacher.org/narrative-faq>.

WESTMINSTER THIS WEEK

Westminster's campus is open for meetings and gatherings, including the new Fellowship Hall.
To reserve a space, please contact Barb Schmidt (bschmidt@wpcdurham.org).

Sunday, September 12 – Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost, Rally Day

9:30am Nursery — Mission Center, Room G7

9:45am Rally Day Festivities (Courtyard & Terrace)

11:00am Worship — Sanctuary and YouTube

6:00pm First Youth Group for 2020-2021 — WPC Campus
(FH, Terrace & Front Porch, Courtyard, Playfield, Youth Suite)

Monday, September 13

9:00am Monday Morning Bible Study — Fellowship Hall Terrace

Tuesday, September 14

9:15am WSYC Board Meeting — Room 205

10:00am WPC Staff Meeting — Via Zoom

5:30pm Duke Presbyterian Campus Ministry — Room 207

Wednesday, September 15

2:00pm Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel Volunteer Opportunity —
IPE, Roxboro Rd. ([Click here](#) to sign up)

5:30pm Ways & Means Commission Meeting — Via Zoom

Thursday, September 16

12:00pm Men's Book Study — Via Zoom

7:00 PM Fellowship Committee — Via Zoom

Saturday, September 18

9:00am Flower Guild — Sunday Preparation — Sanctuary

Sunday, September 19, Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am Infant/Toddler Nursery — Room G7 (Ground Floor)

9:45am Present Word Church School — Room 105

10:00am Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00am Worship — Sanctuary and YouTube

5:00pm Diaconate Meeting — Fellowship Hall

5:00pm Youth Group — WPC Campus
(FH, Terrace & Front Porch, Courtyard, Playfield, Youth Suite)

WESTMINSTER Presbyterian Church

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919-489-4974 | www.wpcdurham.org

Facebook: [@wpcdurham](#) Facebook Group: Families of WPC Durham

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YouTube: Westminster Presbyterian Church, Durham