



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Do Justice · Love Kindness · Walk Humbly

September 19, 2021, 11:00am
Seventeenth 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

Three Hymn Preludes

Monica Umstaedt Rossman

David Chervien

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song—Children of the Heavenly Father—Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cherrie Barton Henry

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Offertory

Music by John Ness Beck; text: Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O people; he has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?

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*Ensemble: Monica Rossman, Cherrie Barton Henry, Tim Vann, Ellen Vogel, Julie Beckwith, Pru Meyer, Nancy Chaffee,
Jim Broyles, Chuck Byrd, Davis Bingham, Kathe Graves, Bill Fine, Joan Bingham, Stephanie Casale*

* THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

Dana Lange
from Psalm 113

Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.

Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

* THE HYMN NO. 839 BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE!

Assurance

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

Why do we confess our sin?

Thankam Rangala

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.

Gracious and merciful God — you are our great and good provider.
Your Word tells us to trust you in all the details of our lives, but we forget your faithfulness and your promises found throughout Scripture.
You reach out to us in love and offer us the path to joy, peace, and abundant life, but we choose to be independent and follow our own selfish paths, unwilling to notice those who are in need.
Forgive us, Father, for our sinful independence and self-sufficiency, our unwillingness to trust you completely, and our failure to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Give us the strength and courage to choose you rather than choosing ourselves.
Draw near to us when we doubt, and give us eyes to see your hand at work in our lives.
Enable our hearts to live with loving grace and faithful service that will make a difference in us and in our world.
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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Cherrie Barton Henry

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

**Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 21.1-3, 22.1-14

The Word of God for the people of God.

John 1.29

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

“I Don't Know”

Joe Clifford

MOMENTS OF SILENCE

* THE HYMN NO. 463 HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Foundation

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From “A Brief Statement of Faith”

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION

* MUSICAL BLESSING HYMN NO. 541

God be with you till we meet again Randolph
God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.
God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you;
Smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

Ensemble: Chuck Byrd, Davis Bingham, Pam Davis, Cherrie Barton Henry, Brad Davis, Ellen Vogel, Pru Meyer, Mark Foskey, Joan Bingham, Monica Rossman, Bill Fine, Julie Beckwith, Jim Bear, Betty Berghaus, Kathe Graves

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Organ Chorale

Es ist das Heil uns kommen her (Salvation unto us has come)

Monica Umstaedt Rossman

Anonymous



While our Head of Staff, Rev. Dr. Chris Tuttle is away caring for his son, Heath, and family, we will welcome to our pulpit several of Chris' colleagues in ministry.

Today we welcome to the pulpit the **Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Clifford**. Joe serves as Pastor, Head of Staff of the Myers Park Presbyterian Church of Charlotte. He began his ministry there in September 2016. Joe serves on the board of the Mountain Retreat Association (Montreat) as well as Pastors for North Carolina Children, a public education advocacy organization. Prior to coming to Myers Park Presbyterian, Joe served as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas (2006-2016), Alpharetta Presbyterian Church (2000-2006), and Stockbridge Presbyterian Church (1997-2000). He is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary and earned his Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from McCormick Theological Seminary. His undergraduate degree is from Auburn University, where he majored in economics. He went on to a career in banking and finance before discerning a call to ministry and going to seminary. He and his wife, Jennifer, have enjoyed 31 years of marriage and have two children, John (23) and Kate (21).



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

TODAY

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

SEPTEMBER 26

Welcome Station Host Sarah Motsinger
Attendance Station Host *Volunteer needed*
Lector Wes Bolton
Ushers Sarah Motsinger;
Cara, Jonathan & Grace Bolton
Acolyte Lilly Motsinger
Sound Technician Donald Smith
Live Stream Technician Tim Vann



SEPTEMBER 19 WEEKLY UPDATE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to learn, worship, connect, and serve

Church School for Children & Youth is BACK with 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.

Sunday Morning Schedule

- Church Nursery: 9:30am
- Confirmation: 9:45am
- Church School for Children & Youth: 10:00-10:45am
- Godly Play for Children 4 years old–1st Grade: 11:20am following the Children's Message; we meet in the parlor.

What to Bring: Everyone should bring a mask & water bottle. Some classes ought to bring chairs.

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



Godly Play Is Back!

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.

We Show Love for One Another By Being Vaccinated and Wearing Masks

Because we care about our children's and youth's spiritual and physical health, we require all of our paid nursery caregivers, as well as our volunteer caregivers, teachers, and anyone else who ministers with children and youth to be fully vaccinated and to wear masks whether indoors or outdoors. 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.

Call To Nursery Ministry

Do you feel a call to care for the youngest of our church family? There are opportunities, whether you are a youth (9th - 12th grade) or an adult of any age, to help in the nursery during the 11:00am worship service. No matter the amount of time you have, there is a place for you! All volunteers work with paid staff and should be trained in our WPC's Safe Child practices. (Training provided multiple times a year and online.) To learn more, read [this](#) ministry description. To sign up, [click here](#). If you have questions, please contact Marietta Wynands (marietta@wpcdurham.org).

Acolyte Ministry Training Next Sunday, Sept. 26

9:45-10:45am in the Acolyte Room behind the Sanctuary — for children in Grades 3 - 6

The word "acolyte" comes from a Greek word akolouthos meaning "companion" or "one who helps." An acolyte serves God and God's people by reminding all of us of the presence of the Light of Christ with us in worship and wherever we go. All children in Grades 3 - 6 are invited to learn about and be trained in this important ministry next Sunday during the Church School hour. Following this training, children and their parents are invited to [sign up](#) to volunteer during Worship services.

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/F21WorshipVolunteer-sIam. 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.



WPC Youth Group: Off and Running!

All young folks 6th Grade and up are invited to join us for dinner and Youth Group in the Courtyard this evening, 5:30 to 7:00pm. Bring a mask and don't forget to bring \$5 for dinner! It was wonderful to see so many youth and parents for our first youth group last week. If you missed it, don't worry — you can pick up a calendar from Alex and plan to join us on Sunday evenings all year.

High School Beach Retreat: Oct. 15-17 We're headed down to Wrightsville Beach for a weekend of rest and reflection! Registration is full, but you can email Alex for details on the waitlist.

College Conference @ Montreat: Jan. 2-5, 2022 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).



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

Holy Circles: Join Us Next Week 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. Join us next week — Sunday, September 26 — 3:00pm-4:30pm. Register [here](#).

Proud Shoes Library Books Available for Sign-out!

As we focus our fall on the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, join us in reading *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family*. With thanks to the Durham Public Library, you can sign out this book right here at WPC! Look for the blue Library Book Bag on the table next to the Mission Center entrance. Let's talk about it at a bag-lunch conversation on October 17 after worship.

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>.

Update from the Covid Operations Committee: Our Masks, Vaccinations, and Music

The Covid Operations Committee, supported by the Session, continues to work to actively balance the needs of our physical and spiritual health. 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.

Yarn Collection for Haiti

Attention Knitters & Crocheters: Do you have leftover yarn from your last project? We have the opportunity to put your leftovers to good use. The Haiti Outreach Ministry schools in Port-a-Prince, Haiti are offering classes in knitting & crocheting to their students. We are collecting yarn to send to Haiti to help them with this effort. Yarn should be enough to create a small project (e.g. a hat). Knitting needles and crochet hooks are appreciated too. Please leave your donations in the bin outside the mission center by October 15. For more information contact [Helen Harrison](#) or [Emily Strader](#).

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 19 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

- 9:15am Bible Roundtable — via Zoom
- 9:30am Infant/Toddler Nursery — Room G7 (Ground Floor)
- 9:45am Present Word Church School — Room 105
Sojourners — Room 208
(both classes available also via Zoom)
- 10:00am Church School for Children & Youth —
Outdoors
- 10:00am Strings & Sounds Music for 2's through Kindergarten
— Outside Area of Preschool Front Door
(Followed by Church School Classes)
- 11:00am Worship — Sanctuary and YouTube
- 11:15am Godly Play for Children 4 years old to 1st Grade —
Parlor (Following the Children's Message in the Sanctuary)
- 5:00pm Diaconate Meeting — Fellowship Hall
- 5:30pm Youth Group — WPC Campus
(FH, Terrace & Front Porch, Courtyard, Playfield, Youth Suite)

Monday, September 20

- 9:00am Monday Morning Bible Study — Fellowship Hall Terrace
- 7:00pm WPC Handbell Rehearsal - Music Room

Tuesday, September 21

- 10:00am WPC Staff Meeting — via Zoom
- 2:15pm Covid Regathering Group — via Zoom
- 6:00pm Technology committee meeting — via Zoom

Wednesday, September 22

- 2:00pm Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel Volunteer Opportunity —
IPE, Roxboro Rd. ([Click here](#) to sign up)
- 5:30pm Property Management Meeting — via Zoom
- 6:00pm Adult CE Committee — via Zoom

Thursday, September 23

- 9:30am Doorways Bible Study — via Zoom
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Start Up Event —
Fellowship Hall Terrace

Saturday, September 25

- 9:00am Flower Guild — Sunday Preparation — Sanctuary

Sunday, September 26, Birthday Sunday

- 9:15am Bible Roundtable — via Zoom
- 9:30am Infant/Toddler Nursery — Room G7 (Ground Floor)
- 9:45am Present Word Church School — Room 105
Sojourners — Room 208
(both classes available also via Zoom)
- 9:45am Acolyte Training — Sanctuary
- 10:00am Church School for Children & Youth —
Outdoors
- 10:00am Strings & Sounds Music for 2's through Kindergarten
— Outside Area of Preschool Front Door
(Followed by Church School Classes)
- 11:00am Worship — Sanctuary and YouTube
- 11:15am Godly Play for Children 4 years old to 1st Grade —
Parlor (Following the Children's Message in the Sanctuary)
- 3:00pm "Holy Circles" — Racial Equity Committee —
Fellowship Hall Terrace
- 5:00pm Session Meeting — via Zoom
- 5:30pm Youth Group — WPC Campus
(FH, Terrace & Front Porch, Courtyard, Playfield, Youth Suite)

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919-489-4974 | www.wpcdurham.org

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

Instagram: [@wpcdurham](#), [@wpcdurhamyouth](#)

YouTube: [Westminster Presbyterian Church, Durham](#)