



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Do Justice · Love Kindness · Walk Humbly

September 26, 2021, 11:00am
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost - Birthday Sunday

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.

*The flowers today are given to the glory of God in celebration of Susan Robde's 75th birthday
by Jennifer, Michael, Ben, Elizabeth and Andrew Feiler.*

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

ORGAN PRELUDE
Benedictus

Monica Umstaedt Rossman
Alec Rowley

"I bring refreshment—I bring ease and calm." —C. Rossetti

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alex Stayer-Brewington

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Praise God for This Holy Ground

John L. Bell

Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.

Praise God in whose word we find food for body, soul, and mind. *Hallelujah. . .*

Praise God who through Christ makes known all are loved and called God's own. *Hallelujah. . .*

Praise God's Spirit who befriends, raises, humbles, breaks, and mends. *Hallelujah. . .*

Though praise ends, praise is begun where God's will is gladly done. *Hallelujah. . .*

Vocal Ensemble

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* THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Wes Bolton

We have arrived at this place to rest and be revived.

In this holy place, angels ascend and descend.

We have come scattered in hopes of being recollected and rejoined.

We have come with the hope that all peoples will be blessed.

This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.

Surely the presence of the LORD is in this place!

* THE HYMN NO. 688 SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART

Morecambe

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.

Everlasting God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. By what we have done, and by what we have left undone, we have allowed sin to separate us from one another and from you. We have pursued power and prestige rather than humility and righteousness. Like Jacob, we have built legacies upon stolen blessings. We have justified our selfish desire and sacrificed relationships upon altars of individualism and accumulation.

Merciful Friend, forgive us. Set us free to try again. Teach us to rest, that we might be healed. Give us the strength to turn from our temptations, and open our eyes to the angelic majesty of life lived in community.

In the name of the Creator, the Christ, 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

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

**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 27:1-4; 15-23; 28:10-17

The Word of God for the people of God.

John 1:50-51

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana

MOMENTS OF SILENCE

* THE HYMN NO. 369 BLESSING AND HONOR

O Quanta Qualia

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From "A Declaration of Faith"

God chose one people for the sake of all. To the world in its rebellion and alienation, God promised blessing and restoration. The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants as bearers of that promise for all peoples. They had done nothing more than others to deserve the Lord's favor, but God loved them and made them his own. We acknowledge God's freedom and grace. Though we are unworthy, the Lord has made us his own in Christ. God has chosen us as his servants for the sake of the world and destined us to be his daughters and sons, giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor him.

BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Alex Stayer-Brewington

O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIRTHDAY HYMN

African-American Spiritual

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Thankam Rangala

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

Dona nobis pacem (Grant Us Peace)

arr. by Hal Hopson

Ensemble: Pru Meyer, Grace Bolton, Wes Bolton, Cherrie Barton Henry, Stephanie Casale, Monica Rossman, Bill Fine, Tim Vann, Kathe Graves, Chuck Byrd, Betty Berghaus, Mark Foskey, Nancy Chaffee, Helen Harrison, Tom Truscott
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ORGAN POSTLUDE

Monica Umstaedt Rossman

Voluntary in D

George Dyson



*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.*

The Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana (she/her/hers) is a writer, free-range pastor, speaker, and ministry coach living in the Virginia suburbs of D.C. Like many authors, MaryAnn writes the books that she herself longs to read. So as a recovering perfectionist who likes her backup plans to have backup plans, she penned *God, Improv, and the Art of Living*, about embracing improvisation as a spiritual and life practice. And as a twitchy workaholic seeking to find balance in a 24/7 world, she wrote 2012's *Sabbath in the Suburbs*. She speaks to groups about these and other topics. In addition to her books, her writing has appeared in TIME.com, *The Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, *Religion Dispatches*, *Journal for Preachers*, *Coaching World*, and the *Christian Century*, and in a monthly column for *Presbyterians Today* for three years. She was featured on PBS's Religion and Ethics Newsweekly for her work on Sabbath and was recognized by the Presbyterian Writers Guild with the 2015-2016 David Steele Distinguished Writer Award.

She also presently serves as a parish associate at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon, Va., and adjunct faculty at the George Washington University School of Medicine, working alongside physician mentors to teach clinical skills, interviewing, and patient coaching and care. MaryAnn is a graduate of Rice University in Houston, Texas and received her M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is a mother of three, an imperfect knitter, and an occasional ultra-marathoner.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

TODAY

Welcome Station Host Geoff Vaughn
Attendance Station Host Melinda Vaughn
Lector Wes Bolton
Ushers Cara, Jonathan & Grace Bolton
Acolyte Lilly Motsinger
Sound Technician Donald Smith
Live Stream Technician Tim Vann

OCTOBER 3

Welcome Station Host Monica Nichols
Attendance Station Host Helen Tharrington
Lector Riley Meath
Ushers Rayner England; *volunteers needed*
Acolyte *Volunteer needed*
Sound Technician *Volunteer needed*
Live Stream Technician Blair Chestnut



SEPTEMBER 26 WEEKLY UPDATE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to learn, worship, connect, and serve

Connect on Sundays — NEW Start Times & Mostly Outside!

Remember your masks and maybe a water bottle and chair! Look for signs on campus to find your outdoor meeting locations.

Church Nursery: 9:30am

Church School for Adults: 9:45am in the Mission Center and via Zoom

Confirmation: 9:45am on the Terrace

Strings & Sounds Music for 2's-K: 10:00-10:15am in the Preschool Entrance

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

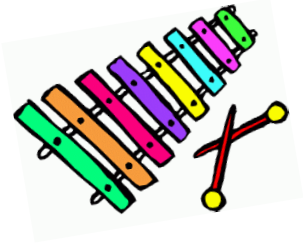
Godly Play for Children 4 years old - 1st Grade: 11:15am following the Children's Message in the parlor.

Youth Group: 5:30-7:00pm



Sign up for a NEW Music Elective for Older Kids!

We are expanding our offerings for children to explore God's gift of music! A NEW short-term elective called "Joyful Noise Music-Makers" will give children in Grades 1-4 the opportunity to explore chimes, bells, & other percussion instruments including boomwhackers! This 7-week series begins October 3 from 9:30-10:00am and will conclude with an informal sharing time on Christ the King Sunday, November 21, at 10:00am. The playground is available for parent-supervised play-time for siblings. Music-Makers Leaders are Janet Whitaker and Ellen Vogel. Sign up [here!](#)



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

100 Percent YES!

Did you know that 100 percent of our church school teachers, Godly Play leaders and greeters, nursery caregivers, children's music leaders, and youth leaders are vaccinated? Westminster LOVES our children and youth and we CARE deeply about both their spiritual and physical health. That's why we ALL said YES! We're vaccinated! We meet outside and we all wear masks!

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).

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.



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 has been wonderful to see so many youth reconnecting on Sunday evenings. Whether you can come every week or just once in a while, come as you are and when you can for fun and fellowship!

High School Beach Retreat: Oct. 15-17 We're headed down to Wrightsville Beach for a weekend of rest and reflection! If you are registered, you can now pay via text! Text WPCDURHAM BEACH \$125.00 to 73256. Standard text messaging rates may apply. If you have not registered, contact Alex to see about getting on the waitlist (alex@wpcdurham.org).

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 TODAY 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 today — 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

Our congregation will be using the Narrative Lectionary for our Sunday morning readings and as the backbone for our children's church school curriculum this year. 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. To learn more about the Narrative Lectionary, visit <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 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
— Preschool Entrance
- 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)

Monday, September 27

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

Tuesday, September 28

- 10:00am WPC Staff Meeting — via Zoom

Wednesday, September 29

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

Thursday, September 30

- 9:30am Doorways Bible Study — via Zoom
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal — via Zoom (contact [Monica Rossman](#) for the link)

Saturday, October 2

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

Sunday, October 3, Communion Sunday and Stewardship Kickoff Sunday

- 9:15am Adult Church School Classes — Online/Mission Center
- 9:30am Joyful Noise Music-Makers Elective for Grades 1-4 —
Calhoon Cabin
- 9:30am Infant/Toddler Nursery — Room G7 (Ground Floor)
- 9:45am Present Word Church School —
Room 105 and via Zoom
- 10:00am Church School for Children & Youth —
Mission Center
- 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)
- 5:30pm 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

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

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