



Westminster Presbyterian Church

*“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new
creation—everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!”*

II Corinthians 5:17

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July 26, 2020
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“Rhosymedre” by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Mrs. Kay Guiles

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, you have given us a dream of your world made whole, a heavenly realm that is near in heart and close at hand, and is ours to choose each day. May our smallest acts of courtesy, when transformed by your love, grow abundantly into a realm of flourishing for all. Amen.

CHIMING

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)

Like a tiny seed or a little leaven, the realm of God grows among us. Like a hidden treasure or precious pearl, the realm of God is all we desire.

Hymn #450 “Be Thou My Vision”

- vs. 1 *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
- vs. 2 *Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*
- vs. 3 *Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*
- vs. 4 *High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Our old selves were crucified with him, so that we might be slaves to sin no more. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Lord our God, we confess that we do not reflect your glory. We devote ourselves to lesser things while you work for a greater purpose. We distract ourselves with grand designs while you surprise us with hidden wonders. Forgive us; restore and reorder our lives by the grace

of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may know your will, seek your way, and share your work, to the glory of your holy name.

(time for silent confession)

And the people of God said, “**Amen.**”

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Breath of God, breathe among us with surprising words in our mother tongue. May our hearts burn with your truth, our minds blaze with your wisdom, and our lives be set afire with your love. Amen.

FIRST READING—Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ANTHEM

“The King of Love My Shepherd”

Josh Cook, soloist

The King of love my Shepherd is
Whose goodness faileth never

I nothing lack if I am his
And He is mine forever

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth

And where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth

The King of love my Shepherd is
Perverse and foolish oft I stray'd

But yet in love He sought my
And on His shoulder gently laid

And home rejoicing brought me
In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, Beside me

Thy rod and staff my comfort still
The cross before to guide me

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never

Good Shepherd, Good Shepherd may I sing thy praise
May I sing thy praise, forever, and forever.

SECOND READING—Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”

And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

SERMON “Like Yeast a Woman Took and Mixed In”

Rev. Dr. Chistopher Crotwell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #840 “When Peace Like a River”

vs. 1 *When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Refrain:

*It is well with my soul;
it is well; it is well with my soul.*

vs. 2 *Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]*

vs. 3 *He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]*

vs. 4 *Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

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

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life.

OFFERTORY “Interlude 6” by Noel Rawsthorne

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Holy Spirit, you have showered your gifts upon us. Now we offer you our lives, to be transformed, made new, and given in love for the world; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Hymn #815 “Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

- vs. 1 *Give to the winds thy fears;
hope, and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.*
- vs. 2 *Through waves and clouds and storms
God gently clears the way.
Wait patiently; so shall this night
soon end in joyous day.*
- vs. 3 *Leave to God’s sovereign sway
to choose and to command.
So shalt thou, wondering, own God’s way,
how wise, how strong God’s hand!*
- vs. 4 *Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our final breath
thy love and guardian care.*

BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE “Allegro Moderato” by Emma Louise Ashford

All hymns are taken from *Glory to God The Presbyterian Hymnal*. All scripture citations are from the *New Revised Standard Version*. Portions of the liturgy are from the *Book of Common Worship* and *Call to Worship* (2014 & 2017).

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Telina Birch, friend of Nancy Johnson – chemo for breast cancer
Dean Cromartie – diagnosed with ALS
Ruthie Davis
Sam Dossett – hospice care
Fluffy Fair
Wendy Graham, Jan Bozeman's sister – finished radiation treatments, continued prayers
Mari Griffin, Brandon Hayes' mother – ovarian cancer
Mary Halliwell, friend of Mary and Dean Cromartie – pancreatic cancer
Kenny Harrell – at home recovering
J T Johnson
Ben Jones, close friend and band mate of Wes Brooks – battling colon and lung cancer
Geraldine Jones – special prayers for her family
Anne Knight, friend of Nancy Johnson – receiving PT at home following stroke
B.J. Lambert – prayers for endurance and strength
Jim Lundy, Sinclair Lundy's brother – Alzheimer's and Parkinson's
Sandy Nicholas – recovering at home
Cindy Nobles – continued prayers
Steve Ramp
James Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's brother – frontotemporal dementia motor neuron disease and ALS
Julie Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's niece – non-hodgkins lymphoma
Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – starting chemo
Lori Nolen Rockett, cousin of Nancy Johnson – receiving chemo treatments before surgery
Larry Royals
Lavon Smith
Allen Stanton, friend of Ben Yelverton – undergoing cancer treatment at MD Anderson, asking for endurance and strength
Frank Tarrant, Nancy Johnson's friend – recovery from open-heart surgery to repair aorta & valve
Jack Watts, friend of Jan Bozeman – Alzheimer's
Shirley Wilbanks, Betty Mitchell's cousin – stage 4 ovarian cancer
Mike Zubajlo, Glenda Miller's son-in-law – undergoing chemotherapy, prayers for endurance and strength

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE WITH COVID-19 AND THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

PRAYERS FOR OUR LEADERS

PRAYERS FOR OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ARMED FORCES