



# 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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## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Hymn to Joy*

May Schwartz

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

Living God, through Christ Jesus you crossed the great chasm between the lands of the living and the dead— all for us and for our salvation. Give us the grace to reach out across the divisions of human society to those who are in trouble or need, so that all may know your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Althea Jerome

Call to Worship (responsive)

Do not put your trust in earthly riches.

**Our hope is in the Lord our God.**

Take hold of the gift of eternal life.

**To this we are called in Christ Jesus.**

Let us worship God.

\* Hymn of Praise 634 – *To God Be the Glory*

\* Call to Confession

We are like broken vessels that hold no water, yet God is gracious to us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

\* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. We dress ourselves in fine clothing while others sit in tattered rags. We fill ourselves with rich food while others beg for scraps of bread. Forgive us, God of grace. Make us rich in good works, generous, and eager to share all the blessings of abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(time for silent confession)

\* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

As a potter holds a piece of clay, God holds and shapes our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

\* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri*

Hymn 581

**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.**

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Michael Ginn

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, source of wisdom, from generation to generation you teach your people the way to live. Through words that are ancient you speak your living Word. Speak to us now with all that we need to honor you and walk in your way with honesty and humbleness of heart. Amen.

First Reading – Deuteronomy 1:1, 5-8

pew Bible pg. 137

The Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *Prayer of Being*

Mark Hayes

Be in my life, be in my breath; be in my walk, be in my rest.  
Be in this humble heart of mine; Be ever present in my mind.  
Be in my hands, be in my feet; be in my eyes and in my speech.  
Be in the smile I give away; Be in each healing word I say.  
Be in my work, be in my play; be in the struggles of each day.  
Be in my joy, be in my pain; be in my loss, be in my gain.  
Be in my thoughts, be in my song; be in my spirit all day long.  
Be in my prayers at dawn's first light; be in my dreams all through the night.  
Amen. The prayer of my heart forever shall be; I in You and You in me.

Second Reading – Hebrews 11:1-3

pew Bible pg. 977

The Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *Blessed Assurance*

Rev. Bob Madsen

### GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving 739 – *O for a Closer Walk with God*

\* Affirmation of Faith (unison) selections from *The 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 the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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 (responsive)

Trusting in the power of God to deliver us, let us make our prayers of intercession for all, saying: God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . . Keep us from wavering in our faith. Help us to hold fast to our confession: that Christ Jesus is the giver of life. God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . . Help us to heed the law and prophets. Work in our world to shrink the gaps between high and low, rich and poor. God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . . Watch over the strangers in our midst, protect those who are most vulnerable, and disrupt the plans of the wicked. God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . . Cover them with your merciful care. Answer them in times of trouble and shelter them from every danger. God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful and mighty God, as you are one, make us one with you through Jesus Christ, whom you have sent to redeem us, and in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

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

Consider the generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ, who—though he was rich—for our sakes became poor. With gratitude for the grace of Jesus Christ, let us offer our lives to God.

Offertory – *Meditation* Norris Stephens

\* The Doxology – Hymn 606

\* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**God of all good gifts, you bless us with so much to share. Use the gift of our money and the gifts of our lives to bring your healing and hope, your justice and peace to our neighbors, near and far. Amen.**

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* Hymn of Consecration 299 – *You Servants of God*

\* Charge and Blessing

\* Postlude – *Recessional on "To God Be the Glory"*

Douglas E. Wagner



\* Please stand at the \* as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

(Liturgy drawn from the *Book of Common Worship* and the resource "Call to Worship" for Year C in 2016.)

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(\* new added prayers)

*Telina Birch, friend of Nancy Johnson – upcoming bone marrow scan*

*Jan Bozeman*

*Laura Pearce Brown, goddaughter of Nancy Johnson – 2 broken ankles are healing,*

*Janet Burke*

*Dr. Tim Cole, friend of Mary Cromartie – pancreatic cancer*

*Fluffy Fair*

*Wendy Graham, Jan Bozeman's sister – recovering from stroke*

*Alese Patrick Hairston, friend of Ann Aldridge – in coma from head injury*

*Arlandra Harvey, former choir member – waiting for a kidney transplant*

*Alejandro Herrera – mass in lung*

*Jeanne Herring – recurrence of cancer*

*\*Sarah Hogrefe, Charles & Martha Ann's daughter – at home from laryngeal nerve surgery*

*Jennie Jackson, friend of Nancy Johnson – breast cancer*

*Ann Johnson*

*Harweda Johnson, Chad Edmonson's grandmother – broken pelvis*

*Geraldine Jones*

*Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – dementia*

*B.J. Lambert – prayers for endurance and strength*

*Bernice McIntosh, Mac Forsyth's aunt – declining health*

*Isabella Muli, daughter of Lori, a friend of Glenda Miller – 14 years old recovering from surgery*

*\*Cala Raborn – heart issues*

*\*Fergus Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's nephew – severe pain*

*Kem Reid, Ryan Reid's father – laryngeal cancer*

*Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – infusion therapy*

*Dena Faye Robertson, Glenn Nobles' sister – beginning dementia*

*Jenny Roberts Robbins, first cousin of Robin Roberts – double mastectomy recovery*

*Brad Rose, friend of Charles and Martha Ann Hogrefe – recovering from serious vehicle accident*

*Jeannette Russell, Janet Burke's twin sister – serious health issues*

*Peggy Sanford, friend of Janiel Harris—Stage 5 renal disease*

*\*Shanna Smith, daughter of Linda Stewart – recovering from brain tumor surgery*

*Tommy Suttle – at home recovering*

*\*Molly Tracy, friend of Ann Aldridge's daughter – throat cancer*

*Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – stroke*

*Glenda Vaughn, Ruthie Davis' niece – health issues*

*Samantha Walley, friend of Mary Dayne and Mac Forsyth – bleeding on brain from a fall*

*John Watkins, Rose Marie Yore's brother – prayers for healing*

*Madison White, daughter of a friend of Amanda Brown – diagnosed with cancer*

*Donna Wilson, teacher at Sacred Heart – colon cancer*



## Greeting and Announcements

**Welcome to Westminster!** We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

**Youth and Children** will meet after worship today for lunch then will go bowling.

**Brown Bag will meet** Tuesday at 11 a.m.

All **Men of the Church** are invited to meet Thursday at 6:30 a.m. in Montague Hall for breakfast and fellowship.



Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30.

There is no charge for the meal, but donations are encouraged.

We need a headcount, so please place a reservation slip in the

offering plate or call the office.

**Menu:** Chicken spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert (provided by the session)

**Starting at 6, the activities are:**

**Children's Choir** will meet upstairs in the rotation Sunday school room.

**The Adults and Youth** will meet in Montague Hall with Randall Harris who has prepared a musical evening for us to enjoy.

**Chancel Choir** will meet at 7.

**Katherine Roberts has begun her seminary journey at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.** The Session is providing some financial assistance for tuition. If you would like to make a donation, make checks payable to Westminster and put on memo line Katherine Roberts.

In your bulletin is a flyer explaining peace and global witness. Please be praying about your gift. Offering envelopes will be in next Sunday's bulletin. When you give to the **Peace & Global Witness Offering**, 50% of your gift stays local, bringing the power of reconciliation and peace of Christ to our community.



**Articles for the October newsletter** are due to Wes by Thursday, Sept. 29, by noon. ([wes@wpchattiesburg.com](mailto:wes@wpchattiesburg.com))

On Sunday, Oct. 2, both the **Growing Spiritually Committee** and the **Mission Committee** will meet at 11:35 a.m.

**Janet Baldwin from Osceola McCarty Youth Development Center** is looking for paid tutors for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. If you are interested, please contact Martha in the office (601-584-7574) for more information.