

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 29, 2023

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

O Eternal Light: you sent your child Jesus Christ that there might no longer be slave or free, Jew or Gentile, male or female: help us to respect the dignity of all human beings and to live in harmony with one another; all for your love's sake, both now and forever. Amen.

THE GATHERING

PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Open Door Concert Series

Norman Elton

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as people on a journey.

All: **We believe and we have doubts, we do good and we sin. We are imperfect humans still beloved by God.**

Leader: Love and grace. Hope and faith. These are the essence of the one we call God.

All: **We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, and a clear path.**

Leader: Speak to us, God! Continue creating us!

All: **Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

*To all who are able, please stand as we offer God thanks and praise.

Bold type face indicates that the congregation participates in word or song.

***HYMN 817**

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CRREK

We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.

And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: How often do we hear the good news of forgiveness and restoration? Yet we are still reluctant to believe. God offers us new life, yet we are afraid to let go of the old. Let us confess our doubts and fears to the one who waits to make us whole.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Holy God, we confess our doubts. When our childhood understandings fall away, we feel naked. When our long-held beliefs seem to crumble, we feel lost. When our convictions are questioned, we feel ashamed. Guide us into right paths, O God. Guide our feet into the way of peace; guide our hands to care for others; guide our hearts to love our neighbors. Call us back to you, O Christ, and renew our faith. When the ground is unsteady, loving God, put us back on right paths by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with you. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

***KYRIE**

Lord, Have Mercy

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: The Lord is our chosen portion and our cup. God binds us in, counsels our minds and instructs our hearts. God helps us to stand firm for justice, mercy and peace. When we fall, God lifts us up, forgives us, and remembers our sins no more. Amen.

***GLORIA**

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

STUTT GART



O my soul, bless your Re-deem-er; all with-in me bless God's name;



bless the Sav-ior, and for-get not all God's mer-cies to pro-claim.

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Rachel Hébert

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

God, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed our eyes may see your kingdom, our ears may hear the call of Jesus, and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Romans 12:9-18*

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 35:22-28 (Unison)

You have seen, O Lord; do not be silent!
O Lord, do not be far from me!
Wake up! Rouse yourself for my defense,
for my cause, my God and my Lord!
Vindicate me, O Lord, my God,
according to your righteousness,
and do not let them rejoice over me.
Do not let them say to themselves,
“Aha, we have our heart’s desire.”
Do not let them say, “We have swallowed you up.”
Let all those who rejoice at my calamity
be put to shame and confusion;
let those who exalt themselves against me
be clothed with shame and dishonor.
Let those who desire my vindication
shout for joy and be glad
and say evermore,
“Great is the Lord,
who delights in the welfare of his servant.”
Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness
and of your praise all day long.

SECOND LESSON: *John 20:19-31*

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Authentic Community:
“Discerning Through Conflict”

Pastor Rachel Hébert

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 769

For Everyone Born
verses 1-3, 5

FOR EVERYONE BORN

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair, (*Refrain*)

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong, (*Refrain*)

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, (*Refrain*)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH (Unison)

God created human beings with a need for community and with freedom to enter into it by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one another with love and helpfulness. We believe that we have been created to relate to God and each other in freedom and responsibility. We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility by trying to live without God and other people or against God and other people. Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being, and intended for free and responsible fellowship with them. Since every human being is made for communion with God and others, we must treat no one with contempt. We are to respect and love all other people and ourselves as well.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can now be found inside the friendship register book.

We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- You may place your offering in the plates as you exit the sanctuary.
- Click the "Make Online Offering" button below the video window on the watch worship services page (www.mywpc.org/streaming/).
- Scan the QR code at the right to access the online offering form.
- Mail your offering to the church office.



OFFERTORY

Heavenly Light

Alexander Kopylov (1854-1911)

Sent from heaven,
Thy rays were given
On great and small to shine,
O Light Divine.
May each soul in sorrow's night
See the heavenly light.

(Offertory continues on the next page.)

Thou, blessing to all creation,
Lead us to our salvation.
All those whose feet may falter,
Lead unto the sacred altar.

O shine from above,
Divine light of love.
Show us the way unto our God, we pray.
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be.
Light Divine, we praise thee.

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

Musical score for the hymn "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (Old Hundredth). The score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be low; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

***INVITATION AND LORD'S DAY GREETING**

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click the "Sign Friendship Register" button below the video window on the watch worship services page (www.mywpc.org/streaming/).
- Scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



***HYMN 749**

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.

Refrain:
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called
to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence
will be no more. (Refrain)

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love. (Refrain)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in A

Selby

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

∞ NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC ∞

“Show us the way to our God, we pray.” Our offertory anthem, “Heavenly Light,” thanks God for shining his light to guide all of us. This piece was originally written as a blessing in a Vesper service, sung at sunset, when the “heavenly light” was fading. Alexander Kopylov was a Russian composer, teacher, and violinist. He studied with Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and composed sacred choruses, dance music, and string quartets.

∞ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ∞

The flowers this morning are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, Rachael & Clifford Bowlin and Lewis & Evelyn Avery
by Jackie and Sam Bowlin.

∞ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ∞

PASTORS

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rachel Hébert, Associate Pastor for Community Care
Pam Hrcir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries
Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music
Chancel Choir

LITURGIST

Don Piper

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Rachel Hébert

GREETER

9:30am Stephanie McGuire

11:00am Ann Schulte

USHERS

9:30am Rick Murray, Pat Murray, John VanAken, Nancy Greene
11:00am Gene D'Orsogna, Ellen D'Orsogna, Ric Cheston, Sarah Houghland

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Carroll Creech, Nancy Harwood, Janie Moyers

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Boyd Knowles

***WINDSOR MEADE USHERS**

Paul Hotinger

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Duncan McIver and John Schoenberger

*Satellite campuses

☞ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ☞

- **Stephen Ministry offers help, hope, healing:** Are you going through a difficult time? A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times or crisis. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, please contact pastor Pam Hrcir (phrncir@mywpc.org). Learn more about this ministry at mywpc.org/stephen.
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 123 (room across from the nursery.) During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

☞ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ☞

To share a joy or concern, please visit www.mywpc.org, select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request.

The Prayer Chain Coordinator is: Jo Ann Youhas (handbellringer@cox.net).

If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. To reach a Pastor during the week, please call the church office.

Sunday, January 29 – Saturday, February 4

Pastor Pam Hrcir
phrncir@mywpc.org; (757-508-4668)

Please pray for:

- Jackie Bowlin, Neal Bowlin, Kathy Kruschwitz, Dortha Doersch, Darryl Chambers, Mary Voorhess, Steve Custer, Richard Friese, Jean Young, Rice Trolan, Bonnie Jefferson and Don Swain
- Those who have recently lost loved ones, those recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound.
- Those serving our country in the military services and their families.
- Those affected by the war in Ukraine.

☞ COMMUNITY OF FAITH MISSION HOMELESS SHELTER LOCATION ☞

Emergency shelter program operates Sunday-Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Week of January 29 — February 5

Smith Memorial Baptist Church
6515 Richmond Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185

🎶 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🎶

- **Presbyterian Men's Fellowship Meeting on February 4, 2023:** On Saturday, February 4th, our Presbyterian Men's Fellowship will have Johnnie L. Roberts, a distinguished journalist, as their guest speaker. His three-decade career at the pinnacle of American business and financial journalism earned him numerous awards for his coverage of the financial services sector plus the media and communications sectors while reporting for the Wall Street Journal and Newsweek. The meeting begins at 8:00am in Stevenson Hall with fellowship and breakfast. **Please make your reservations by Wednesday, February 1, at the church Welcome Center, or online at mywpc.calendar so that we can prepare enough home-cooked food for all.** A donation of \$10.00 will be requested at the breakfast.
- **Mark your calendars now to attend the WPC Annual Town Hall Meeting in Stevenson Hall on Saturday, February 4, 2023, 10:00-11:30am.** Come hear 2022 highlights from all the church ministries and what is coming in 2023. To join the ZOOM meeting please go to the link: mywpc.org/calendar.
- **Come to the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday February 21, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Stevenson Hall.** Join us for food, music, and a parade! There will be pancakes with sausage and a Dixieland Band for entertainment. The evening will be capped off by a children's Mardi Gras style parade. This event is for the whole family to enjoy and the price is \$8 per adult, children under 12 are free.

Sign-up tables will be located by the elevator between services on January 29th, February 5th, February 12, and February 19th. You can also sign-up in the Church Welcome Center during the week or online at mywpc/calendar. So we'll be sure to have enough food for everyone, we are asking everyone who plans to attend to please sign-up in advance for this event.

- **Join our WPC family. New member orientation luncheon is March 26th after the 11 am worship service in Stevenson Hall.** Please contact Pastor Pam for more information.
- **Crockpot Ministry Needs Your Help - No Cooking Required:** Crockpot Ministry is a partnership between the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM), FISH, From His Hands and local motel management. Volunteers shop and deliver ingredients needed to provide a home-cooked dinner for homeless families including parents and children temporarily housed in Williamsburg area hotels. Select your own crockpot recipe or we can provide suggestions. You may also add a bagged salad/carrot sticks and/or dessert in addition to the ingredients required for the main dish. Most items need to be shelf stable, but one location does have a large refrigerator and freezer allowing for recipes with perishable ingredients. Participating hotel families already have a crockpot, measuring cups and spoons, salt and pepper. Sign-ups allow you to do 1-26 meals and to select the date(s) you want to participate. Participate as an individual, family, circle or other church group. Many thanks to all the individuals and groups at WPC who have already volunteered. To Sign up or for more information - Scan the QR code here to go to SignUpGenius (open the camera on your phone and point at the QR code) or contact *Robin Sabo.



- **The Christian Education Ministry needs “Sunday Supers!”** The CE Ministry is actively looking for 3-4 individuals (or couples) to serve as “Sunday Supers” (AKA Sunday School Superintendents). What, you might ask, IS a “Sunday Super?” At WPC, the Sunday Supers are the welcoming committee, the problem solvers, a calming presence, and the glue that holds the Sunday School morning together. Duties include welcoming families and children to Sunday School (and helping new families find the right rooms/teachers/classes), checking in on the Nursery, being present for Gather Together Time (generally 9:30-9:40), and popping into classes to see if teachers need anything. Occasionally, you would also serve as a substitute if needed. The time commitment for Sunday Supers is brief (9:15-10:30am one Sunday morning a month), and this is an EXCELLENT way to get to know the children of the church (and those who love and teach them), but without committing to a major responsibility. If you might be interested, or have further questions, please contact DEM “A” Williams.
- **Join The Squares. Life is a journey, going from one place/time to another. But what part of that journey is spiritual?** The Squares will use the story of the walk to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-35, to consider the question of “spiritual journey.” If you are intrigued by this question then join us on **Thursday, February 2, at 7:30pm in room LL011, or via Zoom at:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84000897925?pwd=eIQ5RDBrSVhKRTJMM1ZpckR4RUhwUT09>
Meeting ID: 840 0089 7925 Passcode: 005054
- **Supper Seminar 6pm on Tuesday, February 7, 2023:** Come learn about what it means for WPC to be part of the Thriving Congregations program and how you can help the church discover what’s next. We will present what we’ve gained from the first quarter of the program including some of what we have already discovered about WPC, as well as what steps are to come over the next couple of years. We will also be doing a “Relational Meeting Training” with all who attend, a process that helps uncover the prayers, passions, and needs of our congregation and community through purpose-filled time spent with one another. **Dinner will be \$5 per person and you can register on the WPC website.**
- **The 2nd Annual Valentine:** It is time to get creative! On Saturday morning, **February 11, from 10-11:30am, Stevenson Hall** will be set up for some drop-in Valentine-making fun! There will be several tables set up (similar to the Advent Celebration) where EVERYONE is welcome to stop by and get creative. There will be activities for all ages (preschool through adults). We will also have a special table set up where you can make a valentine card for a WPC Beloved Senior/shut in. Pop in and make something special for someone (or the someones) you love! As with all WPC Families events, ALL church members, visitors and guests are considered WPC Families, so everyone is invited!
- **The Souper Bowl of Caring is back on Sunday, February 12!** Be a part of the movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Our WPC youth will greet you at church in the Narthex and in the back hallway on the morning of “The Big Game” (**this year, Sunday, February 12**) with large soup pots to collect money to donate to a program of their choosing. This year, the youth have chosen to support the *Summer Meals for Kids* program with the

Souper Bowl of Caring funds we raise. Donations to local food programs are still so very critical. If you are not going to be in church on February 12, if you are watching the live stream at home, or listening on the radio, if you don't carry cash, or if you would prefer to give online, that is not a problem! Please consider giving at mywpc.org/give. All checks (whether mailed to the church or donated in person on the 12th) should be made out to WPC with "Souper Bowl of Caring" on the memo line. For more information on the Souper Bowl of Caring program, and how their goal of raising money for local food programs all over the country works, please visit www.tacklehunger.org.

- **The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, February 27, 2023, at 2 pm in the WPC Library (and on Zoom) to discuss *The Wrong Kind of Woman*, by Sarah McCraw Crow.** Our guest will be the author, who is the daughter of the McCraws of our congregation. For a list of books chosen for the 2022-2023 season, or to request the Zoom link, please contact Ellen Peters.
- **Stephen Minister Training begins March 7 from 6-8pm.** Is God calling you to serve as a Stephen Minister? Through 50 hours of training, you will gain confidence in your gifts to walk with those facing life's challenges. Please listen for the Spirits nudging and contact Pastor Pam or one of our Stephen Leaders: Judy Austin, Allen Hogge, and Becky McKinley.
- **Year-End Giving Statements** – Giving statements for 2022 have been emailed to donors using your email address on file. If you do not see an email from the church in your inbox, check your spam and/or junk mailbox. Please let the office know if you need to change or update your email address or if you need any further assistance.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at mywpc.org/news/ or on the church calendar.

***Contact information can be found in our online directory.
You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.**

∞ OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ∞

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

- 9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access
10:30am Fellowship Coffee Hour / Stevenson Hall
11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740. or wmbgradio.com
12:00pm Collegiate Ministry Sunday Planning / UKirk Rm
4:00pm Open Door Concerts Series: Alcee Chriss / Sanctuary
5:30pm Youth Group / Rm 222 and 227

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

**Lent/Holy Week/Easter/Spring Issue of the Kirk Connections submission deadline.
Send articles to publications@mywpc.org by the COB.**

- 9:30am Disciple Class / LL010
1:00pm Caregiver Support Group
6:00pm UKirk Dinner Dialogue / LL009, LL012, LL011
6:30pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Choir Rm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

- 10:00am Disciple Class / LL010 and Zoom
1:00pm Staff Mtg / Zoom
7:00pm AA Wmsbg., Tuesday Night Big Book Study / LL049

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 9:00am Feeding Faith: College Breakfast
10:00am Monthly Grief Support Group / Rm 220
6:00pm Genesis Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm
7:00pm Congregation Nominating Committee / Rm 220 and Zoom
7:00pm Christian Fellowship Committee / LL010
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 9:00am Sanctuary Closed for Cleaning
4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsals / Children's Choir Rm
7:30pm Westminster Ringers / Bell Rm
7:30pm The Squares Men's Bible Study / LL010

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 8:00am Presbyterian Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast and Speaker / Stevenson Hall and Kitchen
10:00am Hybrid Annual Town Hall Meeting / Stevenson Hall and Zoom

∞ Next Sunday in Worship ∞

February 5, 2023 • 5th Sunday after Epiphany

The sermon "*The Gift of Witness*" is based on Matthew 5:13-20.

*9:30am service is live-streamed on mywpc.org. **11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740