

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT • MARCH 5, 2023

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Spirit of the desert, you drove Jesus to the edge of the world to find his truth and calling; scour our hearts and awaken our hunger that freed from empty clinging we might find ourselves in you; through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the wilds. Amen.

THE GATHERING

PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: By faith, we trust that we were created in the image of God.

All: **By faith, we hope and dream and make plans.**

Leader: By faith, we face our fears and insecurities.

All: **By faith, we till the soil of our lives and plant seeds of love.**

Leader: By faith, we follow where God leads.

All: **By faith, we trust that God is present in our midst.**

Leader: By faith, we gather in this place to worship God together.

***HYMN 432** *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all
and will not let us fall.

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

*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.

2 But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.

3 We marvel how your saints became
in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.

4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored, done.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Almighty God, we are not always people who live by faith. We know that we were created in your image, but we treat ourselves and each other in ways that do not honor your presence within us. We know your laws and your commandments, but we choose to disobey you and to act in ways that harm our neighbors. We hear your call to reach out to those most in need, but instead we turn our backs on them and on you. Forgive us, O God, and help us day by day to become more faithful followers and the people you created us to be. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

*KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: What we have hoped for is true. What we cannot see has been made known.
God's forgiveness is certain and sure. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are
forgiven! Thanks be to God.

GLORIA IN ABEYANCE DURING LENT

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Adrian Williams

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

God of signs and wonders, we come to your Word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-10*

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 121 (Unison)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;

(Psalm continues on the next page.)

he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

SECOND LESSON: *Genesis 12:1-9*

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

SERMON

“Altars in the Wilderness”

Pastor Rachel Hébert

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 684**

Faith Begins by Letting Go

LUX PRIMA

1 Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.

2 Faith endures by holding on,
keeping memory's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God's great faithfulness.

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

3 Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God's grace.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (Unison)**

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.

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 REFLECTION

Tommy Michaels

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 at 215 Richmond Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185



OFFERTORY

Just as I Am

arr. Howard Helvey

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
That thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken every burden down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

***DOXOLOGY**

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

TALLIS' CANON

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be-low;". The second system contains the lyrics: "praise God a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost." The music is a canon, with the melody in the Treble staff and the bass line in the Bass staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*INVITATION AND LORD'S DAY GREETING

We are glad you are worshiping 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 850

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

1 In a deep, unbounded darkness,
long before the first light shone,
you, O God, beyond all merit
worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy,
you embraced us as your own,
evermore and evermore.

2 Though our world is ever-changing,
you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to your covenant promise.
Trusting you, we live, secure:
singing praises, singing praises,
long as heart and breath endure,
evermore and evermore.

3 Joy transforms our lips to boasting
only in your matchless grace,
sending Christ to dwell among us,
Word made flesh in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior,
in whose life we glimpse your face,
evermore and evermore.

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

4 God of Hagar, God of Sarah,
God of nomad Abraham;
God of Miryam, God of Moses,
Fiery Pillar, great I am:
lead us homeward, lead us homeward,
to the love-feast of the Lamb,
evermore and evermore.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

O Christ, Surround Me

GREEN TYLER



POSTLUDE

Lied

Vierne

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 ∞

This morning's postlude, whose title is simply translated "Song", is by French organist composer Louis Vierne (1870-1937). Nearly blind since birth, Vierne would go on to become organist at Notre-Dame Cathedral. In addition to a number of *organ symphonies*, Vierne wrote a suite of smaller selections, *Twenty Four Pieces in Free Style*, from which this lovely selection is drawn.

❧ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ❧

The flowers this morning are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, Opal and M. C. Eddins, and in honor of the music program at our church by Nan and Barbara Eddins.

❧ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ❧

PASTORS

Rachel Hébert, Associate Pastor for Community Care

Pam Hrncir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Chancel Choir

LITURGIST

Faith Shartzler

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Adrian Williams

GREETER

9:30am Stephanie McGuire

11:00am Ann Schulte

USHERS

9:30am Ralph Simmons, Happy Simmons, Rebecca Caprio

11:00am Ford Moseley, Nancy Moseley, Rebecca Caprio

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Carroll Creech, Copper Perry, Terry Backus

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Ric Cheston

***WINDSOR MEADE USHERS**

Paul Hotinger

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Dave McLain 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 220 (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, March 5 – Saturday, March 11

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

Touch Note:

- Thank you for Inspiring Connections: Thank you, Karen Lee and Leslie Stacks, for sharing your messages in Kirk Connections (About Us/News at www.mywpc.org). Karen's "Words Matter" is an insightful three-point reminder for all of us to T-H-I-N-K (yes, it expands to a thoughtful reminder) before we speak. Leslie Stacks' telling of her recent accident on DoG Street is an inspiring personal story about her modern day encounter with a good Samaritan.

- submitted by a WPC Member

The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:

Please pray for:

- Barbara Smith, Craig, Evelyn Sailor, Jackie Bowlin, Neal Bowlin, Kathy Kruschwitz, Mary Voorhess, Steve Custer, Richard Frieze, 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 traveling on the WPC Holy Land trip from Wednesday, February 22 - Tuesday, March 7.
- Those serving our country in the military services and their families.
- Those affected by the war in Ukraine.

🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

- Vanessa Gamble, Church Secretary will be out of the office Monday, March 6 - Monday, March 13. **If you need assistance, please contact Martha Reier, Admin. Asst. She is in the office Monday—Thursday, 9am-2pm and Friday, 9am-12pm.**
- **Glorious Easter Morn AT WPC** - The Worship Ministry invites you to donate an Easter Lily in Honor/Memory of someone while helping to beautify our church on Easter Sunday. Envelopes to order a Lily for a donation of \$15.00 each are in the Friendship Registers and in the Welcome Center. You may also place your order and pay on-line at www.mywpc.org/lilies. **Orders must be turned in by Monday, March 27.** Lilies may be picked up AFTER the 11:00 Easter service or on Monday, April 10 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. (The church office will be closed on April 10, but Ruth Cobb will be on hand to assist you.)
- **Stephen Minister Training begins March 7 from 6-8pm.** Through 50 hours of training, you will gain confidence in your gifts to walk with those facing life's challenges. Contact Pastor Pam or one of our Stephen Leaders: Judy Austin, Allen Hogge, and Becky McKinley.
- **March 15 Wednesday Lenten service is at noon in Stevenson Hall. Join Pastor Pam for a time of worship and fellowship over lunch.** We will worship together using the spiritual practice of *The Examen* as we explore "Being a Child of God" Bring your own lunch or sign up for a box lunch from Divine Lunches. Cost is \$10. No cost for children under 12 and college students. Order lunch on line or in person at the back lobby.
- **Come one, come all to the 3rd Annual WPC Grounds Mulching Party to be held Friday, March 17 from 9am-noon.** The church's Facilities Committee will supply the shredded mulch, pitchforks/shovels, and wheelbarrows. So all you need to bring is yourself, some gloves, a rake and/or a broom, to help make the church grounds look great for the Easter season. If you can help out or if you would like more information, please contact Fred Whitley.
- **FISH Food Collection: Our next FISH collection will be Sunday, March 19.** FISH currently needs mayonnaise (small jars), grape jelly, canned pastas (ravioli), beef stew, as well as toothpaste/toothbrushes, shampoo, laundry detergent, and feminine hygiene products. Please place your donations in or near the red shopping cart located by the rear entrance. Christian Outreach thanks you for your generosity to our food insecure neighbors.
- **WPC Families "Paint Night" is back! On Monday, March 20, at 5:30pm, we will meet in Stevenson Hall with dinner, fellowship, and painting!** We have invited one of the Jamestown High School art teachers to join us for the night, and lead us through painting our own interpretation of our Lent theme, "Are We Seeing and Being Beloved Children of God?". This will most definitely be a kid (and beginner painter)- friendly event. All supplies (and don't forget dinner) are provided, and for that reason, registration is required. Please go to www.mywpc.org/calendar for the link to register. Childcare will be provided for preschool age and under.
- **Join our WPC family. New member orientation luncheon is March 26 after the 11 am worship service in Stevenson Hall.** Please contact Pastor Pam for more information.

- **The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 2 pm in the WPC Library** (and on Zoom) to discuss Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China, by Jung Chang. For a list of books chosen for the 2022-2023 season, or to request the Zoom link, please contact Ellen Peters.
- **The Presbyterian Women need YOU!** Presbyterian Women (if you are reading this, and you are a woman, and a Presbyterian, this means you): are you looking for a way to meet more amazing women in this church, without having to dive right into a big commitment? Are you looking for a way to find out more about Presbyterian Women (PW), including all that this group does for the church (and how this wonderful group of women supports each other) or maybe how to join one of the nine fabulous and welcoming Circles that are available during the month, please consider joining the PW Coordinating Team. The Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team has several positions that will be open for next year (2023-2024 season). No experience needed. Each position comes with a flexible job description to guide you. If you're interested, have any questions, would like more information, or would like to pass on the name of someone who would be a great fit, please contact Jodie Davis.

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.**

⌘ UPCOMING WORSHIP INFORMATION ⌘

Services on Wednesday afternoon or evening and Sunday morning are a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds for the Passion and Resurrection of Easter Week. Worship services at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church are open to all and we encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us.

- Join us for Mid-week Lenten worship services which continue through March 28 at 7pm in the sanctuary. Our pastoral staff will teach and lead a spiritual practice prior to the worship service at 6:30pm in either Stevenson Hall or the Sanctuary.
- **New this year is a Wednesday Luncheon and Lenten service on March 15 at 12pm in Stevenson Hall.** Join Pastor Pam for a time of worship and fellowship over lunch. We will worship together using the spiritual practice of The Examen as we explore "Being a Child of God." Bring your own lunch or sign up for a box lunch from Divine Lunches. Cost is \$10. No cost for children under 12 and college students. **Order lunch online, in the Welcome Center during the week or in person at the back lobby on Sunday mornings.**
- Join us for worship each Sunday, 9:30am in-person or online; 11am in-person and on the radio.

⌘ WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING HOLY WEEK ⌘

- **April 2 Passion Sunday** services at 9:30* and 11am+
- **April 6 Maundy Thursday** service at 7pm* • Celebrations of the Lord's Supper
- **April 7 Good Friday** service at 7pm*
- **April 9 Easter Sunday** services at 8, 9:30* and 11am

*Service will be in-person and live-streamed on mywpc.org.

+Service will be in-person and broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740.

∞ OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ∞

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Communion will be served at all worship services.

Holy Land Trip

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

3:00pm ODCS - Rehearsal / Sanctuary

5:30pm Youth Group / Rm 222 and 227

MONDAY, MARCH 6

Holy Land Trip

10:30am Sanctuary Ringers / Bell Rm

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group

5:30pm Pizza Night at WPC / Stevenson Hall

6:00pm UKirk Dinner Dialogue / LL009, LL012, LL011

6:30pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Choir Rm

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Holy Land Trip

10:00am Disciple Class / LL010 and Zoom

7:00pm AA Wmsbg., Tuesday Night Big Book Study / LL049

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

7:30am Men's Bible & Bacon Study / Stevenson Hall

10:00am Presbyterian Women's Circle 14 / LL010

6:00pm Genesis Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm

6:00pm Earth Care Committee Mtg / Zoom

6:30pm Lent Spiritual Practice / Stevenson Hall

7:00pm Mid-week Lenten Worship / Stevenson Hall

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

7:30pm Belonging to God—Questions with Kids / Children's Choir Rm

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

9:00am Sanctuary Closed for Cleaning

4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsals / Children's Choir Rm

7:00pm Diaconate Monthly Mtg / Stevenson and Zoom

7:30pm Westminster Ringers / Bell Rm

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

∞ Next Sunday in Worship ∞

March 12, 2023 • Third Sunday in Lent • Children's Sunday

The sermon, "*Welcome Children*" is based on Mark 9:30-37.

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