

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Generous God, you come to us again and again, no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives. Calling to us, gathering us in, you give us your good work to do, daily bread, and boundless grace. Align us with your ways and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy as good news. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Rise Against Huger

Bob Feely

PRELUDE

All Things Bright and Beautiful

arr. Bennett

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Whether we embrace God's call in our lives
or try to avoid it,

**All: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Whether we are long timers or latecomers in the life of faith,

**All: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable
or bring hardship,

**All: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
We praise God's name forever and ever!**

*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 702**

Christ Be Beside Me

BUNESSAN

Christ be beside me;
Christ be before me;
Christ be behind me,
King of my heart.
Christ be within me;
Christ be below me;
Christ be above me,
never to part.

Christ on my right hand,
Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me,
shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping,
Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising,
Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts
thinking about me;
Christ be on all tongues
telling of me.
Christ be the vision
in eyes that see me;
in ears that hear me
Christ ever be.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Because we do not always live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, we confess before God and one another our sins and shortcomings. In repentance, let us turn toward God's grace and mercy.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves. Yet, we judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us, we pray, when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. We ask once again for your mercy. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

*KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

Schubert

Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy;

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie 'Lord, Have Mercy' by Franz Schubert. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy;' and 'Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving, grace beyond our ability to earn it. God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ; therefore, live as grateful and forgiven people!

***GLORIA**

Glory Be to the Father

Greatorex

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er
shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical score for a Gloria. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.'

(11:00) SHARING FAITH

Amanda Reed

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, upsets, and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Come and find us today wherever we are, however, we are, by the power of your Holy Spirit. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Jonah 3:10-4:11*

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

PSALM 145:1-8 (Responsive)

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SECOND LESSON: *Philippians 1:21-30*

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

MESSAGE

“Life Worthy of the Gospel”

Pastor John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 629**

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

ST. AGNES

Jesus, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than thy blest name,
O Savior of us all.

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this
nor tongue nor pen can show.
The love of Jesus, what it is
none but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou,
as thou our prize wilt be.
Jesus, be thou our glory now,
and through eternity.

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

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.

PRAYERS OF PETITION 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 at 215 Richmond Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful

John Rutter

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings. (Refrain)

The purple headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.

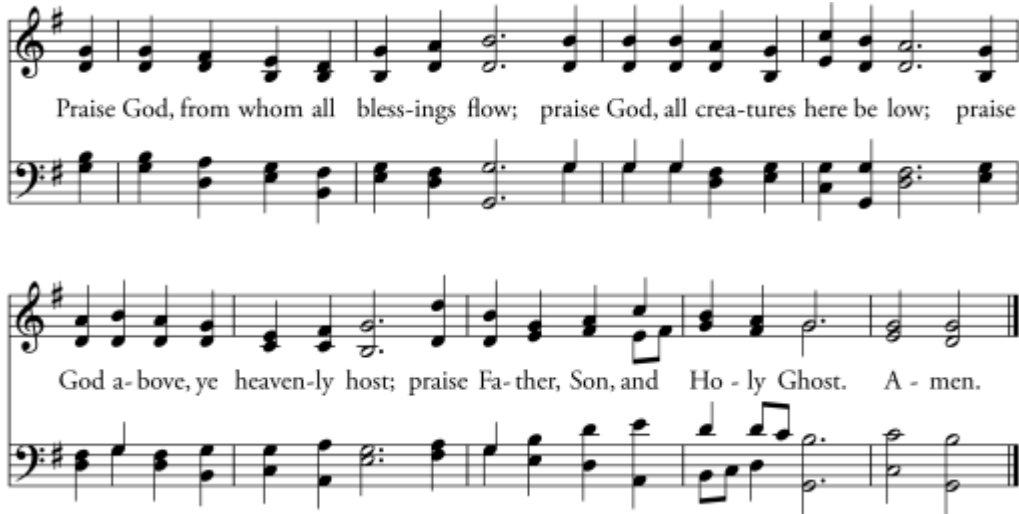
The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them everyone: (Refrain)

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well. (Refrain)

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be low; praise
God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

***INVITATION AND THE 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 846**

Fight the Good Fight

DUKE STREET

Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God's boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Wedding Day at Troidhaugen

Grieg/Moore

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.

❧ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ❧

The Chancel Flowers are given today to the glory of God and in memory of
her husband, Phillip Trimble by Pat Trimble.

∞ **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY** ∞

PASTOR

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff
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

Rebecca Elton

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Amanda Reed, Christian Education Intern

GREETER

11:00am Dick Hubbard

USHERS

9:30am John VanAken, Rick Murray, Pat Murray, Rebecca Caprio
11:00am Bob Bolstad, Rebecca Caprio, Kathryn Hall, Kirk Lovenbury

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Happy & Ralph Simmons, Cherie Brown

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Barbara Stirling and Bruce Minett

***WINDSOR MEADE USHERS**

Paul Hotinger

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Dick Sahlen 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.
- **In need of one-on-one prayer?** After the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday morning services, a Stephen Minister will be available in the Church Library to talk and pray with you. No need to sign up. All interactions and conversations with a Stephen Minister are confidential.
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 220 on the second level. 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). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

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, September 24 – Saturday, September 30

Pastor Pam Hrcir

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

Please pray for:

- Bob Siclari, Ellie Thuermer, Lee Beach, Craig, Evelyn Sailor, Rice Trolan, Steve Custer, Mary Voorhess, Richard Friese, Jean Young, 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 affected by the wild fires in Maui
- Those serving our country in the military services and their families.
- Those affected by the war in Ukraine.

🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

- **Open Door Concert TODAY, Sunday, September 24: Gabrielle Goodman and the Duke Ellington Celebration Band.** It's rare to find an opera singer who performs backup for Chaka Khan or Roberta Flack one night and sings with the Boston Pops the next. But over the course of her career, Gabrielle Goodman has found professional success by straddling these universes so adeptly. For this unique concert, she brings the Duke Ellington Celebration Band to present the music of one of America's most beloved composers. Immediately following intermission, Ms. Goodman will lead a discussion with Mercedes Ellington, granddaughter of Duke Ellington, to learn more about growing up in the Ellington family and about the modern mission of the Duke Ellington Foundation. **Concert begins at 4:00pm. Doors open at 3:30pm, no tickets or reservations are required!**
- **Parking at Williamsburg Baptist Church is not allowed on Sunday mornings.** Over the last couple of weeks members have been observed parking in the church parking of WBC and walking over to WPC for service. They are in need of their entire parking lot on Sunday mornings to accommodate their growing congregation and the W&M students who rent parking spaces from them. If you are unable to secure a parking place in of our lots or on the street on Sunday morning, you have two options for parking. You may park at the Williamsburg Public Library or at one of the parking garages: Prince George Street Parking, 230 N Henry Street; City Square Parking Terrace 401 N. Boundary Street. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.
- **New Member Orientation Luncheon: Sunday, October 1, 2023; Noon-2pm, Stevenson Hall.** Is the Spirit nudging you to join WPC? Please contact Pastor Pam or the church office to learn more. All are welcome here.
- **Save the Date: October 8 Fall Gathering.** You are a vital piece! Come enjoy clever ministry-themed food, a scavenger hunt to get to know WPC ministries, and find where you fit in the puzzle.
- **RISE AGAINST HUNGER:** This major food packaging event is a WPC favorite, so put **Saturday, October 14** on your calendar. Everyone from 4 to 104 can help eradicate World Hunger by participating. This year we plan to package 55,296 meals and to raise \$22,000 to purchase that food (this will be a record breaker for us). You may visit mywpc.org/rah/ to register as a volunteer or to donate to RAH. For more information please contact *Gary Davis or *Jim Kirkpatrick.
- **The Earth Care committee invites you to a kayak trip to the Dragon Run Swamp on Wednesday, October 25 beginning at 9am.** We have reserved 9 kayaks for a group tour exploring one of Coastal Virginia's unique ecosystems. Learn more at mywpc.org/kayak, or contact *Dorothy Geyer.
- **Join A Prison Ministry – Bake Cookies and Consider Attending the Closing Ceremony.** On October 25 we will be joining twenty-six other men from churches from throughout eastern Virginia in a Prison Ministry weekend at Sussex II State Prison in Waverly, Virginia. This weekend is under the auspices of Kairos Prison Ministry International, which conducts similar weekends in forty states and in several foreign countries. During this weekend forty-two prisoners will spend four days learning about Jesus Christ and about how He can change lives, even those in prison.

(This announcement continues on the next page.)

There are two ways you can participate in this ministry:

1. As part of this weekend ministry thousands of homemade cookies are given out to all the residents in Sussex II prison and for that we need your help. Your homemade cookies tell the residents that someone who doesn't even know them still cares enough to give them something — the time it takes to bake the cookies — without wanting something in return. Such selflessness is often a unique experience for them. It also teaches them to trust. Most inmates in the prison system are takers, not givers. This brief experience of sharing something of value freely — often with those they do not like — has a powerful effect. **I need 66 volunteers to make three dozen cookies each.** If you can help, let me know. I will send you the prison security requirements for the cookies. You must follow so that we can bring the cookies into the prison. Cookies must be dropped off at the WPC kitchen no later than **October 24 at close of business.**
2. Another way you can participate in this ministry is by attending the Kairos Weekend Closing Ceremony on October 29 at 12:30pm in the prison. This is a unique experience to see how the Holy Spirit changes lives. Anyone over 18 years of age can attend. If you would like to participate, you will need to complete a form so that the VA Department of Corrections can do a background check. If you wish to go you must complete a background check form no later than October 13. Contact Joe Avellar for a copy of the form and Department of Correction rules for visitors.

Any questions, please contact Joe Avellar at 757-897-1235 or jwavellar@gmail.com.

***Contact information can be found in our online directory.**

You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

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

∞ SPECIAL EVENT AT WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ∞

Sponsored by the Virginia Arts Festival, The King's Singers will perform their holiday concert in our Sanctuary, Thursday, December 14, 2023 7:30pm. The group, made up of 6 singers, have represented the gold standard in a cappella singing on the world's greatest stages for over fifty years. They are renowned for their unrivaled technique, versatility and skill in performance, and for their consummate musicianship, drawing both on the group's rich heritage and its pioneering spirit to create an extraordinary wealth of original works and unique collaborations. To learn more about the King's Singers and their history, visit kingsingers.com.

Discounted tickets sales has been EXTENDED through Monday, September 18, 5:00pm.

WPC members and students still have an opportunity to purchase tickets at a reduced price. The tickets are normally \$55 but will be \$44 for adults and \$41.25 for students under 25. Go to mywpc.org/king to purchase tickets.

↻ WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ↻

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access
10:30am Coffee Fellowship / Stevenson Hall
11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740
or wmbgradio.com
4:00pm Open Door Concert: Gabrielle Goodman
5:30pm Youth Group / CE Wing

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 10:00am Adult Bible Study Disciple Class: Invitations to Romans / LL010 and Zoom
1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123
2:00pm WPC September Book Club / Church Library and Zoom
6:00pm UKirk Dinner and Dialogue / LL012
7:00pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Sanctuary

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 10:00am Adult Bible Study: Christian Believer-Knowing God with Heart and Mind / Rm 220 and Zoom
1:00pm Staff Meeting / Zoom
7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049
7:00pm Earth Care Committee Meeting / Zoom

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 7:30pm Men's Bible & Bacon Study / Stevenson Hall
9:30am Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team / Stevenson Hall
5:00pm Congregation Nominating Committee / Rm 220
6:00pm Genesis Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Room
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning
4:30pm Carol Choir and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Children's Choir Room
7:00pm Session Meeting / Stevenson Hall
7:30pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Room

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

↻ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ↻

October 1, 2023 • 18th Sunday after Pentecost • World Communion

The sermon, "*Changing Your Mind*" will be based on Matthew 21:23-32.

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