



joined together
in love

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 15, 2023 • 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Holy God, you set before us every day a bounty of good things. Bring us to your feasting table, hungry for your Word, eager to rebuild the cities you have made, and ready to receive strangers so that we celebrate at all times and in all places the peace which is life in you. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Stewardship: Joined Together in Love

Bill Vardeman

PRELUDE

Adagio

Bennett

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You have been called to the banquet.

All: This is the feast.

Leader: You have been summoned to the wedding.

All: This is the feast of life and light.

Leader: From the streets and the byways, God has invited us.

All: We have come to the banquet that has no end. Alleluia! Amen!

*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 301**

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us come before the throne of God, the mercy seat, with all of our humanity, open to the peace of promised forgiveness.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

You invite us to your feast, O God, and we do not come. You beg us to give thanks for life, and we fail in our thanksgiving. You have made for us a wonderful earth, and we neglect the gift. Forgive us for what we have done and for abandoning the pathway you desire for us. Be our guide and conscience. Turn our feet and hands to your will, that all we do might give glory to you. 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 musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first phrase: "Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy;". The second system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the second phrase: "Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The God of peace, who calls all creation to live in unity, hears your plea. In the spirit of feasting and thanksgiving, in the mercy of Almighty God, you are forgiven! For the sake of Christ Jesus, our Savior, who died and rose from the dead to destroy the shroud of despair, rejoice!

*GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father

Greatorex

The musical score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The vocal line consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves of music. 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) At this time any and all children through the 5th grade are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children. Afterwards the children will go with the Leader upstairs to the Christian Education Wing for Wee Worship and return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN FOLLOWED BY WEE WORSHIP

Jodie Davis

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Your word, O God, is a feast all its own. Let your Holy Spirit open our minds to your call to listen, for we know your holy Word heals and reconciles your people. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 25:1-9*

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

PSALM 106 (Responsive)

**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD
or declare all his praise?

**Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.**

Remember us, O LORD, when you show favor to your people;
help us when you deliver them,

**that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that we may glory in your heritage.**

Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

**Save us, O LORD our God,
and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

**And let all the people say, "Amen."
Praise the LORD!**

SECOND LESSON: *Matthew 22:1-4*

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

MESSAGE

"The Invitation"

Pastor Pam Hrcir

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 503

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

O QUANTA QUALIA

1 Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
ours, a commitment we know never ends.

(Hymn continues on the next page.)

2 Here, at your table, confirm our intention;
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.

3 When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed and our courage restored,
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE CONFESSION OF 1967** (Unison)

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

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 be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary
- Visit mywpc.org/offering or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM**He Never Failed Me Yet**

Robert Ray

Refrain:

I will sing of God's mercy,
 Every day, every hour, he gives me power,
 I will sing, and give thanks to thee,
 For all the dangers, toils and snares that he has brought me out.
 He is my God, and I'll serve him,
 No matter what the test.
 Trust and never doubt,
 Jesus will surely bring you out,
 He never failed me yet.

I know God is able to deliver in time of storm,
 I know that he'll keep you safe from all earthly harm.
 One day when my weary soul is at rest,
 I'm going home to be forever blessed, (*Refrain*)

Didn't my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh?
 And didn't he cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
 When I think of what my God can do,
 He delivered Daniel, I know he will deliver you. (*Refrain*)

He never failed me, he never failed me yet.
 Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out,
 He never failed me yet.

DOXOLOGYPraise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDRETH

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 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 on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit mywpc.org/friendship or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



*HYMN 10

Sing Glory to the Name of God

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1 Sing glory to the name of God,
whose holy splendor shines abroad.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Enthroned above the crashing waves,
the God of grace and glory saves.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The name of God is full of might:
resounding thunder, flashing light.
Alleluia, alleluia!
The wilderness cannot contain
the echoes of the great refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 The name of God is wild and free,
awhirl in holy mystery.
Alleluia, alleluia!
A secret wrapped in smoke and fire,
still chanted by the temple choir:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 May God forever be our peace;
may hymns of glory never cease:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Let all the faithful people come;
sing praise to God, the Three-in-One:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Allegro

Arne

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 honor of our 68th Wedding Anniversary by Anne and George King.

✧ 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

Scott Stabler

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN AND WEE WORSHIP LEADER

Jodie Davis

GREETER

9:30am Bill Riffer
11:00am Harley Stewart

USHERS

9:30am Bob Bolstad, Lynn Newcomer, John VanAken, Dave Littell
11:00am Gene D'Orsogna, Ellen D'Orsogna, Maxine Cunningham, Kelly Kirkpatrick

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Matt Slack, Terry Backus, Sarah Houghland

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Godwin and Sylvia Jones

***WINDSOR MEADE USHERS**

Paul Hotinger

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Jim Marshburn 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 HrnCir (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, October 15 – Saturday, October 21

Pastor John Morgan

jmorgan@mywpc.org; (757-903-7800)

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

- WPC member Cynthia McCraw and family on the death of her husband, WPC member John McCraw, who died on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, 2:00pm followed by a reception in Stevenson Hall.

Please pray for:

- Bob Siclari, Ellie Thuermer, Courtney, 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 wars in Israel and Ukraine.

🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

- **Guatemala Update Luncheon: Sunday, October 22, Noon in Stevenson Hall.** Enjoy a light lunch and time together as our June, 2023 Guatemala Mission Team members recap the trip. This is a great opportunity to journey alongside our seven missionaries, gain some perspective on the impact of our Guatemala mission over the past decade, and learn about future plans. **No reservations required.**
- **The Hybrid WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 2pm in the WPC Library** to discuss *Want to Go Home*, by Cindy L. Freeman, a local author, who will be joining us for the meeting.
- **Presbyterian Women (PW) Fall Gathering-Thank Offering, October 25, 11:00-Noon, Stevenson Hall.** All women are warmly invited! Refreshments will be served, followed by a lighthearted and informative program. PW leaders will provide an overview of key activities and missions planned for the coming year. Financial gifts will be offered to support the PW PC(USA) Thank Offering, which has reflected God's love through community projects since 1888. Pre-registration is requested. Sign up in the Welcome Center or online at <https://www.mywpc.org/current-news/presbyterian-women-fall-gathering-thank-offering/>
Thank Offering donations can also be made at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/thank-offering/>
- **Fall Town Hall Meeting: Saturday, October 28, 2023, 10am in Stevenson Hall. Our congregation is thriving...and all of us want that to continue!** Over the last 18 months, some of you have participated in one-on-meetings with a "Thriving Congregations" committee member: *Sarah Houghland, Joseph Kinard, Sallie McLain, Diane Schwarz, CW Stacks, and "A" Williams*. You've shared your personal WPC history and what this church means to you. Others of you have joined group Listening Sessions and shared more ideas and aspirations. Now we want to spend time as a congregation discerning what all this great information is pointing towards and what that means for WPC's future. As we learned at our latest Montreat gathering, your words are sacred...theological! **Please join us for a Town Hall meeting on Saturday morning, October 28 at 10am in Stevenson Hall to get an update from the "Thriving Congregations" committee and begin to discern together what we might do next.**
- **WPC Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 29, 4-5:30pm.** This is a free event for all, and all are welcome! WPC members, guests, and community members are invited to decorate a trunk and pass out goodies to our youngest congregation and community children! Kids will trick or treat from trunk to trunk in the big parking lot behind the church. Sign up online to host a trunk as a family, as a Sunday School class, Church Ministry, or any other group. No need to sign up to attend as guests or trick or treaters. Questions, contact *Jill Walton or *Jodie Davis.
- **Recently the freezer located in the large kitchen area in the basement was left open. All the meats thawed and had to be thrown out.** We have two freezers (the other is located in the storage area on the main level) that are used to store meats received from the Food Bank to use in the meals our Outreach team prepares for local homeless and hungry. No one should open the freezers other than the Outreach volunteers, but if you do, please make sure the doors are completely closed to prevent this from happening again. Meat is a high commodity and very hard for the volunteers to come by.
- **Vases needed!** Fall is a great time to clean out your closets and cabinets and donate any unwanted clear medium sized vases (approximately 8-10 inches) to the Flower Ministry.
Please put your donations in the Flower Closet behind the pulpit or give them to either *Laura Bechtler, Joane Bozek, Leigh Salud or Carol Thomas*.
- **Sometimes we just need a little help getting back on our feet!** If you are willing to supply a meal for members who are recovering from surgery or illness, please contact *Linda Eichhorn. It does not have to be homemade.

***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/](https://www.mywpc.org/news/) or on the church calendar.

∞ WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ∞

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:30am Adult Bible Study Disciple Class: Invitations to Romans / LL010 and Zoom

10:00am Grief Share Group - Closed Group / Rm 123

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123

2:00pm Grief Share Group - Closed Group / Rm 227

5:15pm Communication Ministry / Zoom

6:00pm UKirk Dinner and Dialogue / LL012

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00am Gathering Space Design Team / Stevenson Hall

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

5:00pm Congregation Nominating Committee / Rm 220

6:00pm Genesis Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Room

6:30pm Administration Ministry Mtg / Rm 220 / Zoom

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning

2:00pm UKirk Mental Health Affinity Group / LL012

4:30pm Carol Choir and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Children's Choir Room

7:00pm Christian Outreach Ministry Meeting / Rm 220

7:30pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Room

7:30pm The Squares / Rm 227

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

W&M Homecoming

7:00am Kairos Prison Ministry Training / L049

10:00am Carrying Stream Gathering / Rm 123

2:00pm John McCraw Memorial Service and Reception / Sanctuary and Stephenson Hall

∞ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ∞

October 22, 2023 • 21th Sunday after Pentecost

The sermon, "*Work of Faith, Labor of Love*" will be based on 1 Thessalonians 1:1-8.

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