

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church First Sunday in Lent • Communion Sunday February 18, 2024

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Loving God, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, for it reminds you and us of your promise: that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Walter Schmid

PRELUDE

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

arr. Belfield

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and

transgressions.

All: God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love!

Leader: The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; we put our trust in God.

*HYMN 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

^{*}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.

687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past



- 5 Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
- 6 Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God's bow has been hung in the clouds—a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin.

God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful.

Without fear, then, we confess our sins.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name 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 Pardon

Leader: As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth. Thanks be to God for this good news!

GLORIA IN ABEYANCE DURING LENT

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Rev. John E. Morgan

At this time any and all children through the 5th grade are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Mark 1:9-15

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 25:1-10 (responsive)

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

All: O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Leader: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

All: Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Leader: Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

All: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Leader: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

All: Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

Leader: He leads the humble in what is right

and teaches the humble his way.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 9:8-17

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

SERMON

"Everlasting Covenant"

Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn 833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

St. Margaret

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED (unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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 <u>mywpc.org/offering</u> 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

A Lenten Prayer

Hal Hopson

Leecy Silk, soprano

Lord, who throughout these forty days For us did fast and pray, Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, And close by thee to stay.

(Anthem continues on the next page.)

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833



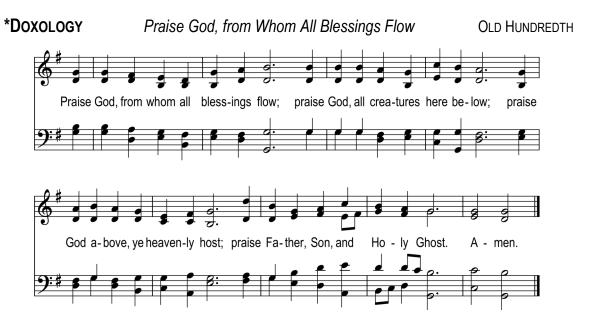
This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by himself; Oh, nobody else could walk it for him, He had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley, We have to walk it by ourselves; Oh, nobody else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial; You have to stand it by yourself; Oh, nobody else can stand it for you, You have to stand it by yourself.

And through these days of penitence, And through this Passiontide, Yea, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church welcomes all who believe in Jesus Christ to share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us today. We receive the elements by means of intinction, taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup. For those who desire an individual serving, regular or gluten free, they will be on a table in front of the baptismal font and on the small tables located in the balcony. If you are seated on the main floor of the sanctuary, you are invited to come forward to the chancel area by way of the center aisle and return to your pews by the side aisle. If you are sitting in the balcony, an usher will guide you to the sacrament. If you are unable to come forward easily, please signal to one of the ushers or elders so the communion elements can be brought to your seat.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west,

and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. All are welcome here without regard to denomination or membership. This is the Lord's Table and all are

welcome to join in Holy Communion.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God our creator

and redeemer. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power.

You formed us in your image to love and serve you, but we forgot your promises and abandoned your commandments. In your mercy, you did not reject us but still claimed us as your own.

When we were slaves in Egypt you freed us and led us through the waters of the sea. You fed us with heavenly food in the wilderness, and satisfied our thirst from desert springs. On the holy mountain you gave us your law to guide us in your way. Through the waters of Jordan you led us into the land of your promise, and you sustained us in times of trial. You spoke through prophets calling us to turn from our willful ways to new obedience and righteousness. You sent your only Son to be the way to eternal life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Choir:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor:

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way, and though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Help us, O God, to be obedient to your call to love all your children, to do justice and show mercy, and to live in peace with your whole creation. Guide us through the desert of life, quench our thirst with the living waters, satisfy our hunger with the bread of heaven. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when with the redeemed of all the ages we will feast with you at your table in glory.

People:

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.

Pastor:

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

COMMUNION ANTHEM

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me; All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me; In my trials, Lord, walk with me; When my heart is almost breaking, Lord. I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

So many things in this world try to draw our attention away from what is truly important. Lord, in this moment, through these elements, restore to us the right relationship we should have with you. Remind us again of the blessings and good fortune we have to be in your house and to celebrate this testament of your love for us. Amen.

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 <u>mywpc.org/friendship</u> or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



*HYMN 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

IESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN 275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God might - y for - tress is our God, bul-wark nev - er a we in our own strength con - fide, our striv-ing would be 2 Did 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat-en to unearth - ly powers, no 4 That word a - bove all thanks to them, a fail ing. Our help - er he, mid the flood of a were not right man side, the los ing, the on our do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his bid eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ truth to tri-umph through us. The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred this work us His craft and power are seek to woe. great, and Sab - a - oth he. Lord his Je - sus, it is name, from

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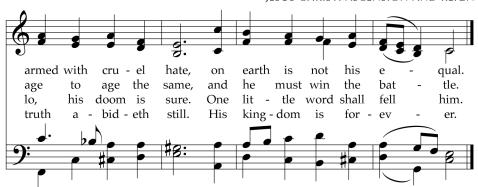
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JESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN



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 prelude is a setting of an African-American spiritual, *Lord I Want To Be A Christian*, potentially rooted in Virginia in the 1750s. It is set here by Dr. Roy Belfield, who taught at Hampton University and served at Hampton Baptist Church before moving to Towson, Maryland in 2022. Belfield has music degrees from Morehouse College, Florida State University, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. He has published numerous scholarly articles, and serves as guest conductor and lecturer at venues across the country.

Today's postlude is by the Nigerian composer, Fela Sowande, who lived from 1905 to 1987. Sowande studied and worked as a church musician in Nigeria before moving to London in 1934. There he continued his studies while serving in a variety of capacities, including as pianist with Fats Waller, theater organist for the BBC, and choirmaster for Kingsway Hall, a prominent Methodist church in London. African motifs are infused in many of his compositions, which include organ, choral, and orchestral works. In 1968, Sowande came to the United States to teach at Howard University, the University of Pittsburgh, and finally at Kent State University. Our postlude is a setting of a spiritual that alludes to the battle at which Joshua led the Israelites against Canaan. It is thought to have been composed by slaves in the early 19th century. Like many spirituals, its text includes references to the end of slavery, ending with a descending melody accompanied by the text, "And the walls came tumblin' down."

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ◆

The flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bradford Crane by Anabel Crane.

THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ≪

PASTORS

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff

Pam Hrncir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Leecy Silk, soprano

Chancel Choir

LITURGIST

Walter Schmid

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Rev. John E. Morgan

GREETER

9:30am Laura Osman

11:00am Karen Lauritzen, Jim Austin

USHERS

9:30am Linda Stewart, Harley Stewart, Rebecca Caprio, Jenn LaDow

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Nancy Rose, Megan Davis, Kelly Kirkpatrick

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Sarah Dulaney, Penny Pulley and Happy Simmons

*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS

Ann and Nick Nicastro, Dick Sahlen

*WINDSOR MEADE USHER

Paul Hotinger

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Matt Slack and John Schoenberger

^{*}Satellite campuses

≫ WPC Elders & Deacons ⋖

SESSION: CLASSES OF 2024, 2025, 2026

Moderator: John E. Morgan Clerk of Session: Diane Schwarz

Administration: Faith Shartzer* (25), Sarah Houghland (25), Margie Newcomer (26),

Jaynelle Oehler (24), Larry Pulley (26)

Christian Education: Sallie McLain* (25), Kelly Kirkpatrick (26), JD Due (26)

Christian Outreach: Kay Allen* (24), Karen McKee (24) Communications: Laura Hild* (24), Martha Squire (24)

Endowment Committee: Al Thomas* (25), Jim Austin (26), Joseph Kinard (26),

Martha Squire (24), Hank Vernon (25)

Facilities: Dale Trowbridge* (25), Jerry Howell (26)

Resources: Tommy Michaels* (24), Elaine McBeth (25), Jay Eaton (26)

Worship: Jim Winthrop* (25)

*Moderator

BOARD OF DEACONS: CLASSES OF 2024, 2025, 2026

Moderator: Janie Moyers (24) **Vice-Moderator:** Copper Perry (25)

Pastoral Advisor: Pam Hrncir, Associate Pastor

Secretary: Jo Ann Youhas (25)

Care Teams

Care Connections: Margie Ambrose (24), Jennifer LaDow (26), Lee Saxton (26)

Grief: Copper Perry (25) Dave Littell (25)

Welcoming a Child, Illness, Surgery, Hospice (WISH): Linda Eichhorn (24), Harold Herring (25)

Brookdale and Other Asst. Living: Robin Sabo (26)

Patriot's Colony: Sue Rennagel (25)

Williamsburg Landing: Joane Bozek (24) Doris Gilfillan(26) Windsor Meade: Shirley Randolph (24), Happy Simmons (25)

Ministry Teams

Celebrations and Concerns: Dougle Winthrop (24), Phoebe Williams (24), Sarah Horner (25)

Christian Fellowship: Happy Simmons (25), Sue Rennagel (25), Nate Green (24), Sarah Dulaney (25)

Flower Sharing: Joane Bozek (24), Laura Bechtler (25): Leigh Salud (26), Carol Thomas (26)

New Member: Nancy Archibald (24), Deborah Rockafellow (25), Eric Beckhusen (26),

Martha Burian (26)

Memorial Receptions: Nancy Moseley (24), Jo Ann Youhas (25), Janie Moyers (24),

Rebecca Caprio (26)

Memorial Services: Terry Backus (24), Lynn Newcomer (24), Nancy Miller (24), Duncan McIver (26)

>> SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ≪

- In need of one-on-one prayer? Please look for a Stephen Minister in the Fellowship Hall or the church foyer after the morning services. They will find a private place to talk and pray with you. Just look for the blue Stephen Ministry name tags.
- 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, February 18 – Saturday, February 24

Pastor John E. Morgan • jmorgan@mywpc.org • 757-903-7800

Please pray for:

- Tom Cobb, Ryan Cahill, son of Tom Cahill and Susan Cherney, who is recovering from major open heart surgery, Lynn Curtin, Carole McNeel, Bob Siclari, Ellie Thuermer, Stephen Custer. John Richardson, Peace for Nancy (Tom) Moul's brother, Richard Friese, who is declining with brain cancer.
- 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 wars in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

≫ SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ≪

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — TODAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of electing six Elders and ten Deacons for the Class of 2027, one member to a three-year term on the Endowment Committee, four members to the Congregational Nominating Committee of 2024-25 and approval of the term of call for John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff and Pam Hrncir as Designated Pastor, will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024, after our 9:30am worship service. All members of WPC are invited to attend.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

- The Upper Elementary Sunday School Class (Grades 3, 4 and 5) is currently collecting food to support The Grove Christian Outreach Center. We began this mission project in 2016 and collected 81 pounds of food which in turn served over 100 meals. Since that time our largest collection weighed in at 509 pounds! With your help, our goal is to continue to increase our donation and provide even more meals. We will be collecting donations in our classroom every Sunday from now through mid-March. Suggestions for donations include nonperishable foods such as canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat and fish, nuts, soups, pasta, breakfast foods and peanut butter. Thank you for your support in making this project a success.
- The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 2 pm in room 220 located on the second floor (and on Zoom) to discuss West with Giraffes, by Lynda Rutledge.

*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.

UPCOMING WORSHIP INFORMATION

- Our Ash Wednesday worship service held on February 14, 2024, marked the beginning of The Season of Lent and the mid-week worship services during Lent. New this year at WPC is a weekly Wednesday Luncheon and Lenten service at 12pm in Stevenson Hall. Join Pastor John and Pastor Pam for a time of worship and afterwards fellowship over lunch. Our meditations will be adapted from "Meeting Jesus at the Table" by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Fohr. We will start with a brief service which will conclude by sharing the Lord's Supper breaking bread and sharing the cup with Christ and one another. Then we will meet Jesus at the table by eating lunch together. You can bring a brown bag lunch or order a lunch ahead of time on our website or in the Welcome Center.
- Join us for worship each Sunday in Lent at 9:30am and 11am in the sanctuary. The 9:30am service is live-streamed on our website and the 11am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740.
- Services Wednesday afternoon and Sunday morning are a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds for the Passion and Resurrection of Easter Week. Worship services at WPC are open to all and we encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us.

>> THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ◆

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place immediately following the 9:30am service.

10:30am Fellowship Coffee Hour / Stevenson Hall

11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com

5:30pm Youth Group / CE Wing

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

The Church Office will be closed for Presidents' Day.

We will reopen on Tuesday, February 20 at 9am.

9:00am Piano Tuning / Sanctuary

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123

TUESDAY. FEBRUARY 20

10:00am Adult Bible Study / Rm 220 1:00pm Staff Meeting / Zoom

6:00pm Stephen Ministry Meeting/Training / Stevenson Hall 6:30pm Administration Ministry Meeting / Rm 220 and Zoom

6:30pm Presbyterian Women's Circle 5 / Rm 222

7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

12:00pm Mid-week Lenten Worship Service and Luncheon / Stevenson Hall

6:00pm Genesis Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning

2:00pm From His Hand Motel Meals Prep / Kitchen

4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsals / Children's Choir Rm 6:00pm ARC Event: Williamsburg Youth Orchestra Performance

7:00pm Session Meeting / Rm 220 7:30pm Westminster Ringers / Bell Rm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

> NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

February 25, 2024 • 2nd Sunday in Lent

The sermon, "Hoping Against Hope" is based on Romans 4:13-25.

*9:30am service is live-streamed on mywpc.org.

**11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740