WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 18, 2021

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship God and by the power of the Holy Spirit do God's work in the world.

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

O Trinity, fill our weakness with your strength; bind up our brokenness with your unity; calm our fears and our dread of dying with your peace. Let us be about the tasks of your love. Use us to build a holy place where healing and caring and joy blend in the tones of worship to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE Lento Blanchard

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

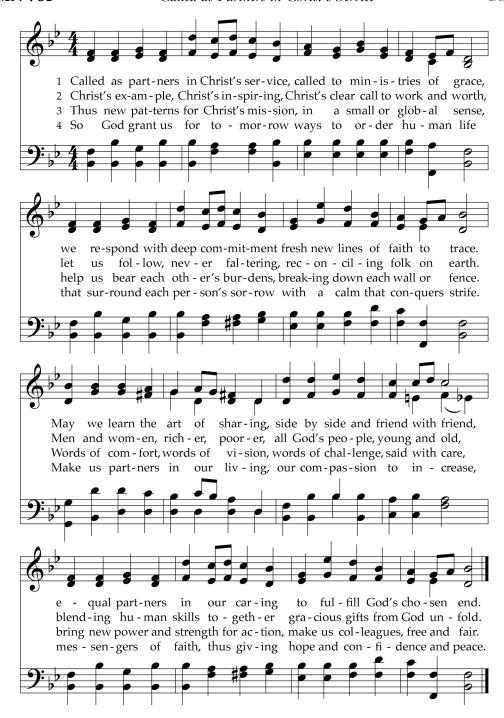
Leader: Come into the presence of the Most High God with songs of praise and shouts of thanksgiving.

All: For our Savior frees us from slavery; our Savior heals our diseases; our Savior is our peace.

Leader: You are a holy temple in the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Come; 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.



*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Even our best intentions go awry when we are not at one with God's purpose. Our gracious God journeys with us and provides for us with unending mercy, patience, and kindness so that when we repent, we find ourselves forgiven. Let us confess our sins.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

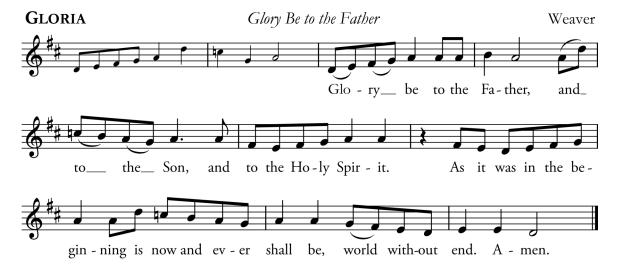
Eternal God, your steadfast love endures forever. We confess that we act as if we are in control as if you will bless whatever we do. If we think of others at all, it is with an eye toward their usefulness to us. If we consider your creation, it is to ponder what benefits us. We have failed to show your love or do your justice in obedience to you. We have no right to be called your children. Have mercy on us, God of grace. Lord, have mercy. Forgive our sins, we humbly pray. Put the mind of Christ within us, O God, so that our lives take the form of a cross. Use us to break down walls of hostility within the church among the nations, and around the world. Equip us to do your will, giving you glory, honor, and praise together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER



*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our Lord Jesus gives us rest and peace. Our God's touch heals us, and the Lord is our salvation. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.



SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Adrian Williams

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Holy Spirit, come and dwell in us. Place Jesus Christ in us so that he is the cornerstone holding us together and making us a sacred place where steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Ephesians 2:13-22

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

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

PSALM 89:20-29 (Responsive)

Leader: I have found my servant David;

with my holy oil I have anointed him;

People: my hand shall always remain with him;

my arm also shall strengthen him.

Leader: The enemy shall not outwit him,

the wicked shall not humble him.

People: I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him.

Leader: My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;

and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

People: I will set his hand on the sea

and his right hand on the rivers.

Leader: He shall cry to me, You are my Father,

my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

People: I will make him the firstborn,

the highest of the kings of the earth.

Leader: Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him,

and my covenant with him will stand firm.

People: I will establish his line forever,

and his throne as long as the heavens endure.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:1-13

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

(Scripture continues on the next pages)

⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

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

SERMON

"God's Covenant with Us"

Rachel Hébert

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 361

O Christ, The Great Foundation

Aurelia



*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR (Unison)

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope.

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.



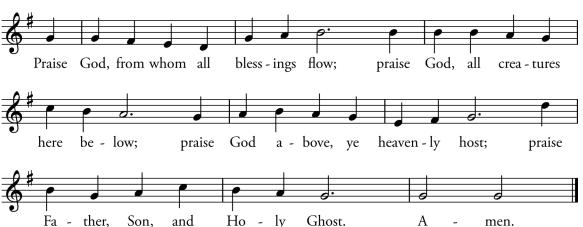
OFFERTORY The Gift of Love Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.





*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.





*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Recessional on

Recessional on "St. Anne"

Young

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 flowers this morning are given with a grateful heart to the glory of God and in memory of their parents, Karl and Martha Rohr and Robert and Gladys Cunningham by Maxine and Ken Cunningham.

≈ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ≪

PASTOR

Rachel Hébert, Associate Pastor for Community Care Pam Hrncir, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care

GREETERS

9:30am Cheryl Roettger 11:00am Linda Eichhorn

USHERS

9:30am Rick Murray, Pat Murray, Pat Underwood, Ralph Simmons, Happy Simmons 11:00am Bob Bolstad, Harley Stewart, Ray Whitney, Sarah Houghland

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Bev Whitley, Guest Organist

Chancel Choir

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Adrian Williams, Director of Education Ministries

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIAN: Matt Slack and John Schoenberger

DEACON-ON-CALL SUNDAY, JULY 18 - SATURDAY, JULY 24

Joane Bozek (571-436-4661; jbozek@cox.net)

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ≪

- John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff, is spending time with his family.
- Meal Ministry starting at WPC! If you are able to provide a few meals a year to families recovering from illness, surgery or life event, please email Pastor Pam (phrncir@mywpc.org) or Marilyn Schmid (mmschmid6@gmail.com). Thank you for being a caring congregation.
- Back to School The Salvation Army is once again providing school supplies and backpacks for children in the local area. Around 600 children are expected to be served this year up from over 500 last year. You can help by dropping off supplies at the Salvation Army Office, 216 Ironbound Road or making a monetary contribution to the Salvation Army. You may also drop off supplies at WPC in the designated box in Stevenson Hall. A list of supplies most needed include: Binders (2" or 3"), Ticonderoga #2 pencils, pencil boxes, ball-point pens, notebook paper (college & wide ruled), composition books (wide), spiral notebooks (college ruled), index cards, Post-it notes, sheet protectors (10 pk), pocket folders with prongs, subject dividers (8), pink erasers, Elmer's glue & glue sticks, highlighters, Crayola crayons (12 or 24), washable markers, dry erase markers, and flash drives.

Thank you for helping children in our community get the school year off to a good start. Questions, please contact Judy Austin (757-645-4098).

- The Fellowship Class will resume meeting each Sunday at 9:30am beginning August 1 in Room LL009. Fellowship Class is a time of Christian fellowship and a lively in-depth discussion of God's Word. Led by a group of teachers with a life-long commitment to education, we seek to learn how we might be faithful Christian servants in our contemporary world. The only requirement for the class is a desire to explore the Bible more fully in the company of Christian friends. Bibles are provided! Leaders Allen Hogge 757-208-0983 and Larry Pulley 757-220-1199 are happy to talk with you if you have any questions. Please join us! The name says it all!
- Discovery on Adventure Island VBS 2021 has come and gone! It was such a treat to welcome our WPC children back into the building! Our young Island Explorers (and teen volunteers) had a fun and exciting week getting back together with old and new friends! Many, many thanks to the incredible and dedicated volunteers who stepped up to make sure our Island Explorers were able to find all of the Infinity Lanterns, and learn to Arise! Shine with Love, Trust, Faith, Joy and Hope! So many committed and creative church members gave their time to kick off each morning during the Opening, act out the daily stories during the Bible Stories, sing and dance to our fantastic and uplifting music, help the kids out with amazing crafts and exciting games, teach super-cool science lessons, and put together a delicious virtual snack station! And our Island Guides kept all of the Explorers active and engaged as they led them from station to station.

The Christian Education Committee hopes you will consider volunteering your time next year. Planning will begin in January! Check your bulletin, the Kirk, and the WPC Facebook page for updates! And mark your calendar now for next year! VBS 2022 will tentatively take place during the week of June 20-24! Hope to see you there! There has been talk of food trucks. . .

- Setting the Lord's Table for Holy Communion: Please contact Linda Eichhorn (757-221-8214; linda8214@gmail.com) if you can join a team who sets the Lord's Table on a regular, alternating schedule.
- WPC families are invited to a TROPICAL PARTY potluck luau! In order to include all families with kids at WPC, MOPS is becoming a yet-to-be-named family group! And to celebrate our old/new group, we are kicking off the 2021-2022 season with a potluck luau!
 Join us on Saturday, August 21, 4-6pm, in Stevenson Hall. Click here to RSVP for the Tropical Party. Questions? Contact Jodie Davis (jdavis@mywpc.org)
- Save the Date Habitat for Humanity Fall Trip: The Hunger and Homeless Team is gearing up for a fall trip to the Eastern Shore to help with Habitat for Humanity's 51st home build. Watch for more information and sign ups in late August. For now, please save the date: September 30 thru October 2, 2021 If you want to stay in the loop for this trip, future trips, or Habitat local build days, add your name to the CO1-08: Habitat for Humanity group through the ShelbyNext Church Directory/Management System, or contact Chuck to get on the list. Questions? Contact Chuck Timko (908-410-7089; chuck.timko@gmail.com). Let's keep 'building it forward!'
- The refrigerator and the freezer located in the kitchen across from Stevenson Halls been cleaned out. If you please any food items for future use in either the refrigerator or freezer, please make sure you have marked them with the date, your name and the ministry name. All items not marked properly will be disposed of. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

• PEVA (Presbytery of the Eastern VA) invites you to "Save the Date" for a Prayer Walk at Ft. Monroe, Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 10:00am. The walk will be a time for PEVA members to pray for racial justice, equity, and healing on the site of so many important events, including the first arrival of enslaved Africans in English North America, and a safe haven for freedom seekers during the American Civil War. This event is open to the public.

>> PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ◆

Contact the Church Office (229-4235, secretary@mywpc.org) with any concern, special joy or touch note you may have. Go to http://www.mywpc.org/prayerrequest to submit a prayer request on-line. Prayer chain requests are kept confidential unless it has been asked to share the request with the membership. Then it will appear on the white board and in this section of the worship bulletin.

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

Contact Pastor John Morgan (757-903-7800), Pastor Rachel Hébert (757-903-5488) or Pastor Pam Hrncir (757-508-4668) if you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request.

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

• The family of WPC member, Marion Russell, who died on Wednesday, July 14, 2021. Arrangements are pending. Please keep the Russell family in your prayers.

Please pray for:

- 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.
- All those who continue to be affected by the COVID-19 in our local community, the United States and around the World.

≫ OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS ≪

SUNDAY, JULY 18

9:30am Fellowship Bible Study Class / Online via ZOOM

9:30am and 11am In-person Worship / Sanctuary

9:30am Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access

10:00am Food Collection / On-site

11:00am Worship / Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740. or wmbgradio.com

MONDAY, JULY 19

1:00pm Summer Meals for Kids / Off-site at Wmsbg. Indoor Sports Complex

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 222

TUESDAY, JULY 20

2:30pm From His Hands Outreach Food Prep / Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21 THURSDAY, JULY 22

3:00pm Grief Journey Group / Stevenson Hall

FRIDAY, JULY 23 SATURDAY, JULY 24

≫ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ≪

JULY 25, 2021 - NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The sermon will be based on Ephesians 3:14-21.

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

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