

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Gathering Music – *Praise My Soul*

Robert J. Powell

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

Living God, through Christ Jesus you crossed the great chasm between the lands of the living and the dead—all for us and for our salvation. Give us the grace to reach out across the divisions of human society to those who are in trouble or need, so that all may know your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Durwood Blackwell

Call to Worship (responsive)

Do not put your trust in earthly riches.

**Our hope is in the Lord our God.**

Take hold of the gift of eternal life.

**To this we are called in Christ Jesus.**

Let us worship God.

\* Hymn of Praise 630 – *Fairest Lord Jesus*

\* Call to Confession

The prophet Jeremiah once wrote that we are like broken vessels that hold no water, but God is gracious to us. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

\* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. We dress ourselves in fine clothing while others sit in tattered rags. We fill ourselves with rich food while others beg for scraps of bread. Forgive us, God of grace. Make us rich in good works, generous, and eager to share all the blessings of abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.** (time for silent confession)

\* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

The prophet Jereimah also wrote that as a potter holds a piece of clay, so God holds and graciously reshapes our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

\* The Congregation’s Response: *Gloria Patri*

Hymn 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.**

## PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Time with Children

Michael Ginn

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, from generation to generation you teach your people the way to live. Through words that are ancient you speak your living Word. Speak to us now with all that we need to know to honor you and walk in your way with honesty and humbleness of heart. Amen.

First Reading – Amos 6:1a, 6-15

pew Bible pg. 747

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *Who Will Separate Us from the Love of Christ?*

Philip W. J. Stopford

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? No, in all these things

we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,

nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else, in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Second Reading – Luke 16: 19-31

pew Bible pg. 851

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *No Traditional Charity*

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving 793 – *O Christ, the Healer*

\* 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 life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Trusting in the power of God to deliver us, let us make our prayers of intercession for all, saying: God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . . Keep us from wavering in our faith. Help us to hold fast to our confession: that Christ Jesus is the giver of life. God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . . Help us to heed the law and prophets. Work in our world to shrink the gaps between high and low, rich and poor. God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . . Watch over the strangers in our midst, protect those who are most vulnerable, and disrupt the plans of the wicked. God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . . Cover them with your merciful care. Answer them in times of trouble and shelter them from every danger. God our Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful and mighty God, as you are one, make us one with you through Jesus Christ, whom you have sent to redeem us, and in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

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.**

Invitation to Offering

Jesus has taught us not to store up treasures for ourselves, but to be rich toward God — for where our treasures are, there will our hearts be also. With gratitude for God's grace, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Andante Pastorale*

Edwin Lemare

\* The Doxology – Hymn 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,  
all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Generous God, we bring you these gifts with gratitude that we have such gifts to share.  
May all that we share be used for your glory, and for the work of justice and peace,  
compassion and joy, in this community and in your world. Amen.**

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn of Consecration 320 – *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

\* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

The kingdom of God, the power of Christ, and the glory of the Spirit be with you forever.  
**Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

\* Postlude – *Fanfare*

William Matthias



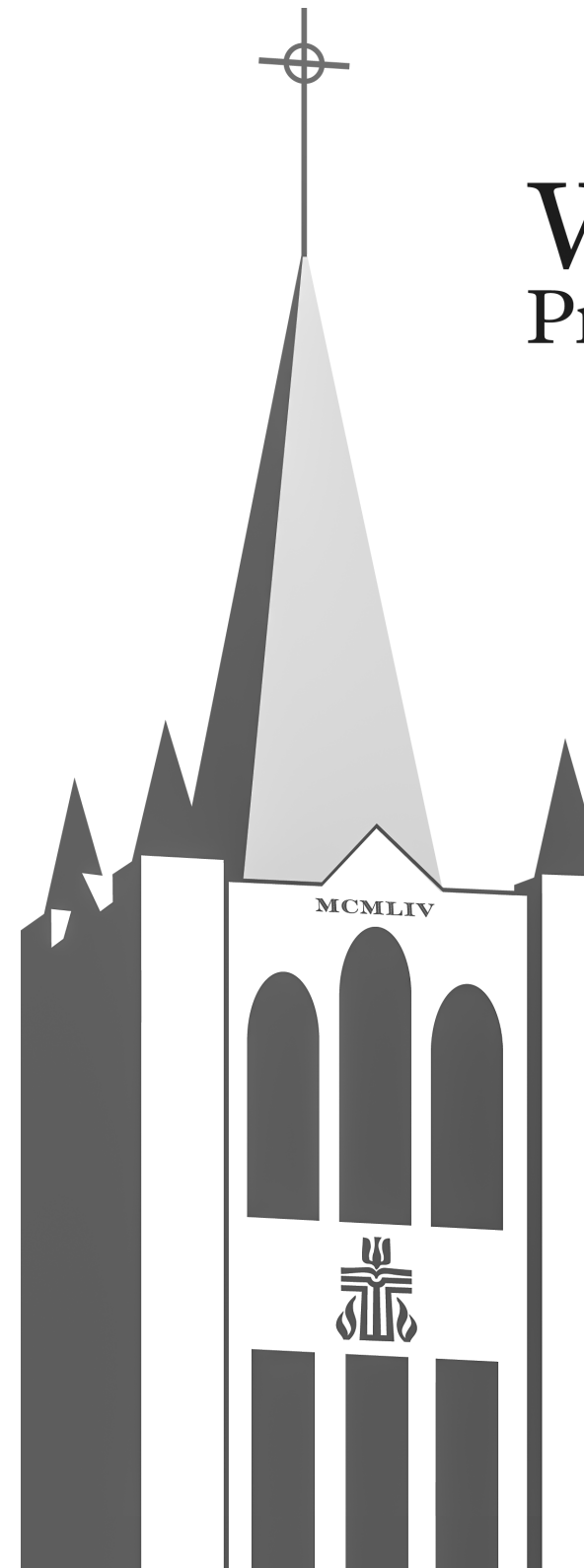
\* Please stand at the \* as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

\*Today's liturgy is drawn from the lectionary resource, *Call to Worship, Year C 2015-2016* and the *Book of Common Worship*, 1992.

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new  
creation—everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!"*

II Corinthians 5:17



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## PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(\* new added prayers)

*\*Debbie Aldridge, Ann Aldridge's daughter – medical problems*

*\*Tab Buchanan – health issues*

*Terri Banks, friend of Pam Love – health issues*

*Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's*

*Jan Bozeman – constant pain*

*\*Franklin Bryant – recovering from broken pelvis at Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)*

*Larry & Margaret Burge of Poplarville, friend of Michael Yore – Larry has cancer*

*Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues*

*Kelsey Curtis, Janet Baldwin's son – prayers of comfort following accident*

*Deidra Dickenson, Kathy Cain's sister – onset of dementia*

*Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)*

*Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance*

*\*Tom Estes – health issues*

*Doug Everitt, Ben Yelverton's stepfather – recovering from surgery*

*Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia*

*Lee Graham, Pam Love's son-in-law – health issues*

*Charles "Rocky" Hartfield, friend of Pam Love – health issues*

*Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister – continued strength through recovery from addiction*

*Charlotte Hill*

*Ann Johnson*

*Geraldine Jones*

*Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's*

*B.J. Lambert*

*\*Vivian Lochhead, daughter of Bob and Margaret Lochhead – eye issues*

*Peggy McCarthy, friend of Iris Easterling – facing serious health issues*

*Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia*

*Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer*

*Butch Nobles' mother – recovering from broken hip*

*Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength*

*Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration*

*Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues*

*Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – broken shoulder*

*Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues*

*Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)*

*Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage*

*\*Walter Whitehead, brother of Annie Richerson – health concerns*

*Rose Marie Yore – recovering from spinal fusion surgery*

## PRAYERS OF COMFORT

*For the family and friends of Shelby Strickland Higgs, Susan Higgs' mother*



## Greeting and Announcements

**Welcome to Westminster!** We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

**Youth and Children** will meet today at 2:00 p.m. at the Petal Roller Dome.

**Brown Bag Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

**Men of the Church** will meet on Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery.

**Growing Spiritually** will meet next Sunday at 11:35 a.m.



Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge for the meal, but donations are encouraged. We need a headcount, so please place a reservation slip in the offering plate or call the office.

**Menu:** Adults — BBQ ribs, baked beans, tater tot casserole, salad, roll, and chocolate chess pie

**Activities** at 6:00 p.m. – Continuing a program based on the Brent A. Strawn book, *Lies My Preacher Told Me*. It is a book written to give an honest look at the Old Testament. Come and join us!

**Chancel Choir** will meet at 6:30 p.m.

## Thank you

The Bryant family would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your sweet thoughts and prayers. We especially appreciate the cards and visits to Forrest General and to Bedford Care. Your encouraging words and smiling faces are such blessings to us. Please continue to lift us up in prayer as we press forward on this journey to recovery.

In your bulletin is a flyer explaining peace and global witness. Please be praying about your gift. Offering envelopes will be in next Sunday's bulletin. When you give to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, 50% of your gift stays local, bringing the power of reconciliation and peace of Christ to our community. Next Sunday is **World Communion Sunday**.

**Today at 3:00 p.m., there will be a free concert** featuring Paul Lee, Susie Ruggiero and John Wooton. All are invited.

To donate to WPC online, scan the QR code and follow the instructions.

