

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Gathering Music – Variations on “Eventide”

Raymond Haan

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

O Lord, your loving-kindness is better than life. There is nothing that can separate us from your enduring love. Move us out, draw us close, and keep us steady, that we might serve you all the days of our lives. All glory; power, dominion, and majesty are yours from eternity to eternity. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Althea Jerome

Call to Worship (responsive)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on the holy name.

Make known God’s deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to God.

Tell of all God’s wonderful works. Glory in God’s holy name.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

* Hymn of Praise 829 – *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

* Call to Confession

We love God, and yet . . . We are Christ’s disciples, and yet . . . We are guided by the Spirit, and yet . . . there are many ways we do not live this reality. Let us call upon the Spirit to intercede for us in our time of confession.

* Prayer of Confession (responsive)

Spirit, intercede . . .

when we fall short of your glory, when we do not deserve your promises,

when we do not act like those who have been called your family.

Spirit, intercede . . .

when our words wound, when our silence speaks volumes, when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do.

Spirit, intercede . . .

break forth into our lives, forming us into the image of your Son, that we might never feel separate from you again.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Beloved, hear the good news: God knows us and forgives us and leads us in the way of everlasting life. **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

Pam Love

Prayer for Illumination

Holy, Holy, Holy One, guide us by the Spirit of truth to hear the Word of life you speak, and to give all glory, honor, and praise to your threefold name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Romans 8:26-39

Pew Bible pg. 919

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Arr. by Richard Walters

Mae Westbrook, soloist

Second Reading – Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

pew Bible pg. 795

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *Mixed in With*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 731 – *Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm*

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed – traditional (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)

Let us pray in the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the church . . . As nothing can separate us from your love, let nothing stand between us and our calling to share the love of Christ with others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth . . . Give us a greater respect for smaller things—the tiny seed, small creature, or subtle event that plays a vital part in your good creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations . . . Grant our leaders wise and discerning minds, so that they may live in faithfulness, and govern with righteousness and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for this community . . . Help us to deal honestly with one another, keeping faith and honoring commitments in public life and in personal affairs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones . . . Remember those in peril, hardship or distress. Show them that nothing in life or in death can separate them from your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray to you, O God, confident that all things work together for good for those who love you and are called according to your purpose. Above all, we give you thanks, O God, that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **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

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Wade in the Water*

Arr. Joel Raney

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)

God of unending gifts, we praise you for your abundant goodness. As you are generous, we want to be generous too. May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world, so that all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 834 – *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

May the blessing of the Trinity—holy, holy, holy Lord—be with you now and always.

Alleluia!

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? **And I said, “Here I am; send me!” Amen.**

* Postlude – *Sing a New Song*

Arr. Mary MacDonald



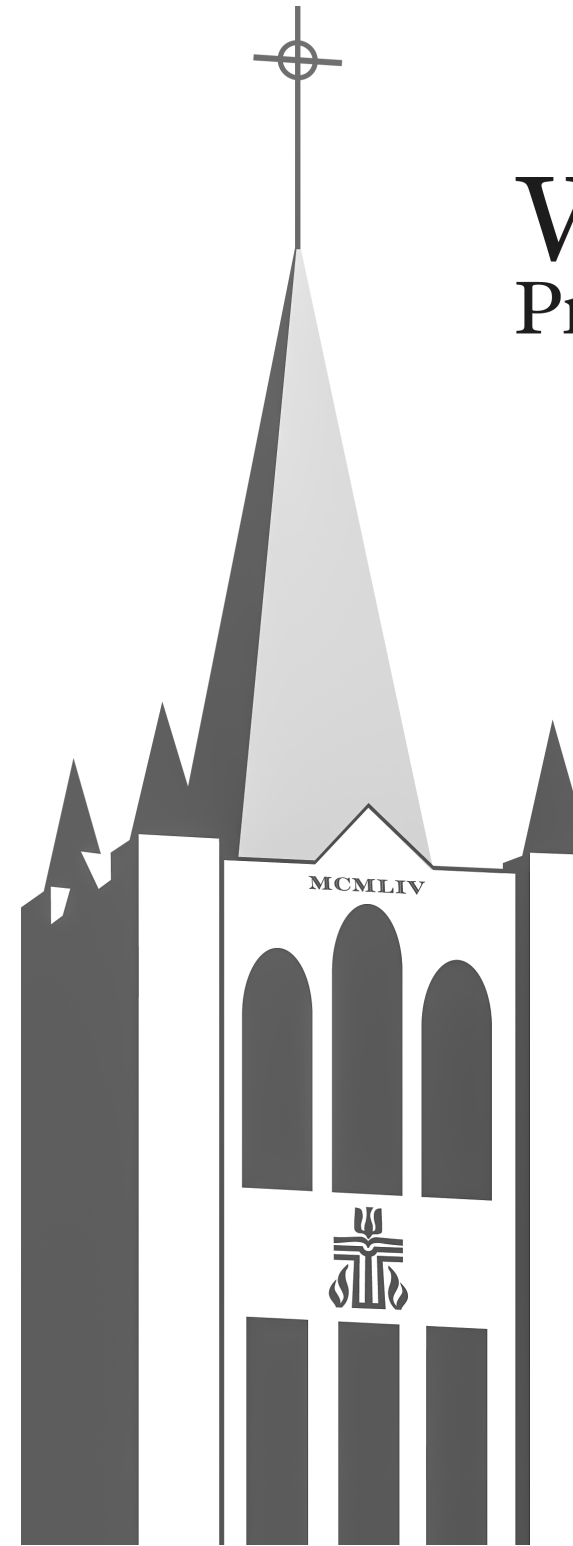
* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created by the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

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)

Janet Baldwin – family issues

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

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

** Sharon Crenshaw, mother of Cassie Reid – in ICU with respiratory distress*

Malcolm Curtis, Janet Baldwin's co-worker – health issues

Deidra Dickenson, Kathy Cain's sister – onset dementia

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

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

Erica Gilmore, friend of Janet Baldwin – family issues

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Mckenna Hawkins, daughter of Michael Yore's friend – cancer

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

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

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

B.J. Lambert

Rebecca Lawrence, friend of Karen Reidenbach – recovering from injuries from a car accident.

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Brenda Owens – recovering from a broken ankle

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

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

**Michael Raggio*

Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – lymph nodes issues

Franklin Eugene Roberts, Robin Roberts' brother – health concerns

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

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

Jerry Spann, friend of Ruthie Davis – cancer

Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage

Ella Young, sister of Janet Baldwin – struggling with dementia



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.

The July/August Today devotionals (large and small print) are on the narthex cabinet.

The Youth will not meet today.

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

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

Growing Spiritually will meet next Sunday following worship.

Senior Adult Vacation Bible School

Parkway Heights

August 3-5

9:30 a.m. until noon

Westminster, with other local churches, will have a Bible school for all adults age 55 and older at Parkway Heights. Come enjoy singing, worship, snacks, fellowship and door prizes. To register, see Tommy, pick up a brochure from the narthex, drop by the office, or register online: parkwayheights.org/calendar

Deadline to register is August 2.

The speaker will be Rev. Trey Harper and music leader is Tim Rigby. Edwards Street Fellowship Center will be the recipient of the mission focus.

Midyear giving reports have been mailed. Please let the office know if you haven't received one.

Articles for the August newsletter

are due to Wes by noon Thursday,

July 30. (wes@breadproject.com)



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

Youth Pool Party

Sunday, August 2

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Suttle's Pool (59 Moss Lane, Petal)

Snacks provided.

You need only to bring towels and swimsuits.

Reminder: During the summer months as the AC runs more frequently in the church, please help us be good stewards by keeping the interior doors of the building closed as much as possible. Thank you.