

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – Prelude on “Trust in Jesus” Raymond Haan

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

Lamb of God, your burden is easy. Good shepherd, your way is righteous. Give us the resolve to follow wherever you lead, knowing the hills and valleys ahead, the places of great suffering and deep hope along the way. May we live our lives worthy of the calling you have given us, in the strong and gentle name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Brandon Hayes

Call to Worship (responsive)

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 321 – *The Church's One Foundation*

* Call to Confession

We seek the will of God, but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God's image. Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace.
(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still. This is the good news that prevails! **In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

* 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

Tommy Suttle

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 – Exodus 3:1-15

pew Bible pg. 44

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

Anthem – *We Look to Thee*

Bob Burroughs

Jesus, we look to thee, Thy promised presence claim,
Thou in the midst of us shall be, assembled in Thy Name:
Thy Name salvation is which here we come to praise;
Thy Name is life, and health and peace, and everlasting love.
Present we know thou art, but, O, thyself reveal.
Now, Lord, let every waiting heart Thy mighty presence, Thy mighty presence feel.

Second Reading – Matthew 16: 21-28

pew Bible pg. 798

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

Sermon – *He Must Go*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 718 – *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

* 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)

With one mind in Christ, and one heart in the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the church . . . Make us faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, unashamed to stand with him and share his cross, unafraid to offer our lives in love for the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth . . . Let this wondrous world you have made continue to blaze with your glory; do not let it be consumed by greed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations . . . Teach us not to act with vengeance and violence, or to respond to evil with evil, but to live in peace, and overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community . . . Help us to extend hospitality to strangers, to contribute to the needs of the poor, and to live in harmony with our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones . . . Let us rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, sharing the grace and love of Christ with all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enable us, O God, by the power of your Spirit, to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the gospel, to the glory of the name that is above all names, Jesus Christ 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 – “Is Your All on the Altar” with *En Bateau*

Debussy & Sprunger

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)

Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 826 – *Lift High the Cross*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

The blessing of the one God— Spirit, Son, and Father— be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

Lead a life worthy of your calling, giving glory to God in all things. **Amen.**

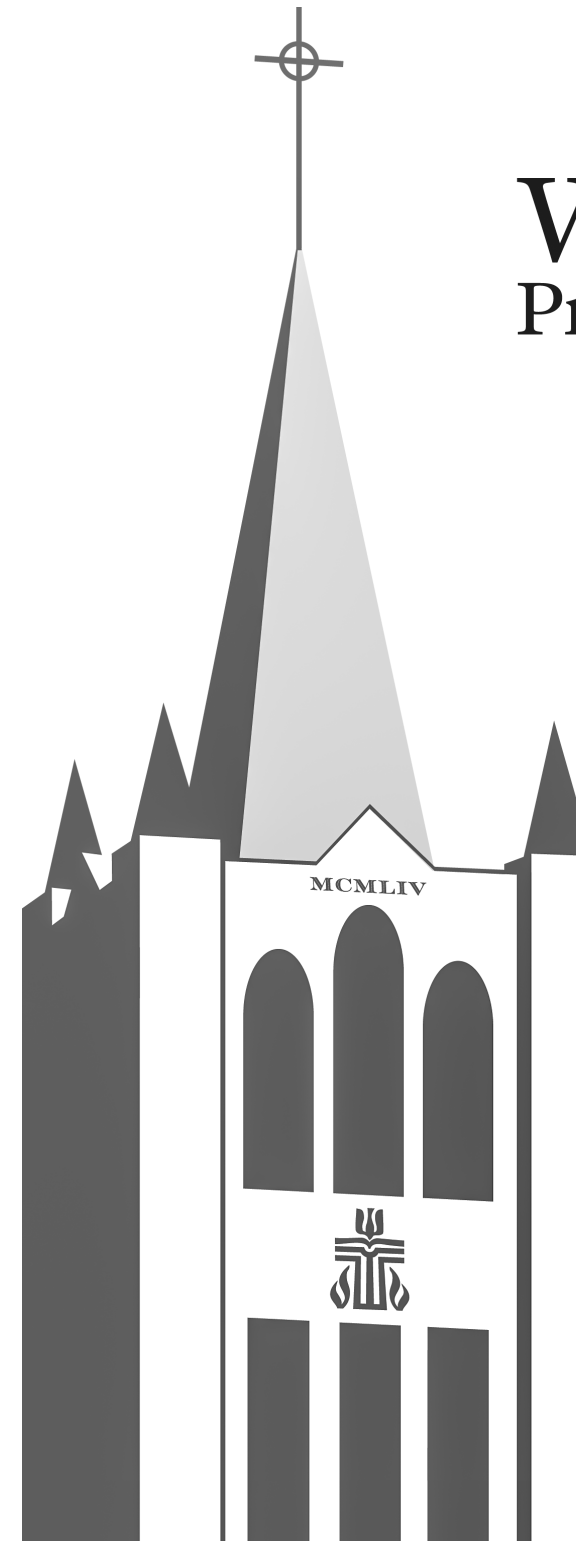
* Postlude – *Voluntary in F*

David N. Johnson



* 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

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

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

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

**Rod Kyriakides, friend of Eric Reidenbach - diagnosed with pancreatic cancer*

B.J. Lambert

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

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

**Aubree Moore, sister of a teammate of Julia Haydel – battling childhood cancer for years*

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 node 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 September/October *Today* devotionals are on the narthex cabinet.

Growing Spiritually will meet today after worship.

Youth will meet today from 5:00-6:30 p.m. A meal will be provided.

PW Coordinating Team will meet Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

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

Choir will meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday Night Dinner and Programming will begin Wednesday, September 9th. Dinner will be served at 5:30 with a brief program for adults, youth, and children to follow. Additionally, there will be a Diaper and Gift Card Shower during supper for Rosalinda Rosada. Come help us celebrate Rosie and her big sister, parents, and grandparents!



The Youth

will sell \$10 parking slots
Saturday, Sept. 5,
at 2:00 p.m.

Diaper and Gift Card Shower



Wed. Sept. 9, in Montague Hall
during supper for Rosalina Rosada.
Come help us celebrate Rosie
and her parents, Rachel and
Marcos; her grandparents Janeil
and Randall and of course Emmy.



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

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.

New Members

A meeting for those interested in becoming a member of Westminster will be hosted by Christopher on Sunday, September 13 in the Conference Room at 9:30 AM. Information about the church, its history, programs, and people will be provided. Those who wish to join will be given an opportunity to do so at the end of the meeting.