

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – Voluntary on *Engleberg*

Charles Callahan

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

Spirit of mercy, we come to your fountain of forgiveness to begin again. You offer a fresh drink, a new life. Though we are often critical of others and of ourselves, help us to accept that we are accepted. Meet us here in ways that we can understand, that we may be filled with the life only you can offer. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

J T Johnson

Call to Worship (responsive)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 475 – *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

* Call to Confession

We are not here to pass judgment on each other: all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us go before God as we offer our confession.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us. **As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. 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

Tommy Suttle

Recognition of Kay Guiles

Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Romans 14:1-12

pew Bible pg. 923

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *Devotion*

John Ness Beck

I am thine, oh Lord, I have heard Thy voice, and it told Thy love to me;

But I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to Thee.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine;

Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope and my will be lost in Thine.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where Thou hast died;

Draw me nearer, nearer to Thy precious, precious, bleeding side.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart Lord,

I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart . . .

Second Reading – Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible pg. 800

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *From the Heart*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 444 – *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

* Affirmation of Faith: *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33* (unison)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

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 . . . Let us live as new and holy people, delivered from sin and death by the grace of Christ through the waters of our baptism. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth . . . Stretch out your hand to stop the rising waters; lead us away from death and destruction into the land of promise you provide. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations . . . Lead all peoples, by the light of your presence, to walk in freedom, to work for justice, to seek your purpose, and to live in peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community . . . Allow us to learn from our sisters and brothers, respecting different patterns and practices of life, doing everything to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones . . . Bless those for whom we pray: heal their diseases, deliver them from trouble, renew their strength, and satisfy them with goodness as long as they live. 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 – *Aria*

Charles Callahan

The Doxology – Hymn 606

* 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 641 – *When in Our Music God is Glorified*

* 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.**

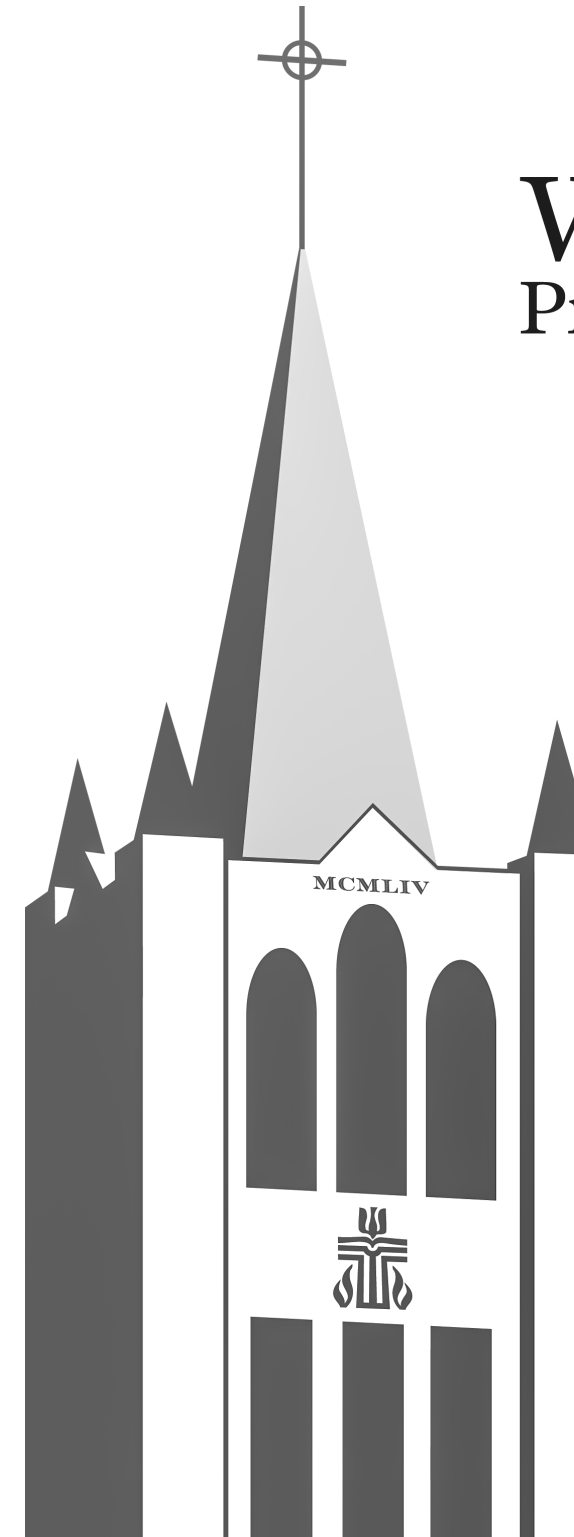
* Postlude – *Laudatio for Organ*

Jessica Nelson



* 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 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 – recovering from broken arm*

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.

There will be a **reception for Kay Guiles** after worship in the narthex.

Deacons will meet today after worship, and the **Session** will meet next Sunday.

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

PW Prayer Ministry will meet Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. There are prayer cards on the back of the pew for prayer requests. Please put the address so a card can be sent and place it with the offering. Come join this group as they pray and write cards.

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.

There will be a **church luncheon on September 20**. All are welcome for this time of food and fellowship.



Please join us for Wednesday night dinner this week at 5:30. 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: Catfish gumbo, French bread, green salad with Creole dressing, peach cobbler and ice cream.

Activities: Christopher will continue teaching the book *The Meaning of Your Life*. The children and youth will meet separately upstairs.

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

New Beginnings will meet at noon on Monday, September 24, in Montague Hall. Caroline Nurkin will be our speaker. All are encouraged to come to share a meal and listen to Caroline, who will share how her church, Ecclesia, supports a local school as part of its mission focus. Please let Martha or Tommy know if you will be attending.

The Youth parking lot fundraiser on Sept. 5 raised \$820.

Concert Series - Trinity Episcopal Church

A Grand Night for Singing!

Sunday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall

Cost \$25 which includes charcuterie and dessert

The evening will feature selections from Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Call 601-544-5551 for tickets.



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