

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Come, Thou Fount* arr. John Longhurst

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

God of every blessing, we remember the works of your hands: the days you save us, the people who embrace us, the moments we feel free, and the dreams you give us. All of it is from you, Faithful One. Sustain us with your strength, that we may be surprised by the miraculous gift of life itself. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Gwen Combs

Call to Worship (responsive)

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 35 – *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

* Call to Confession

We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ. We try to stand firm in God's spirit, but our human self-interest gets the better of us. In humility and faith, let us confess.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy. (time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us. **We will receive this gift of forgiveness, and trust God to transform our lives!**

* 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

Alicia Westbrook

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 – Philippians 1:21-30

pew Bible pg. 953

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem – *How Great Thou Art*

arr. Dan Forrest

Second Reading – Matthew 20:1-16

pew Bible pg. 801

The Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon – *Are You Envious Because I Am Generous?*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 697 – *Take My Life*

* 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 . . . Give us joy in our faith and life together, sharing in the hope of the gospel, and living as a sign of your saving love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth . . . Show us it is not too late to receive your mercy. Shelter your creatures from scorching heat; shower upon us your healing grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations . . . Let the last be first, and the first be last. Let the high and mighty learn humility; let the lowly and despised find dignity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community . . . Inspire us, by your great generosity, to help those who are hungry and homeless, or work long hours for little reward. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones . . . Give hope and healing to all who suffer—especially those who are consumed by anger and those who wish to end their own lives. 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 – *How Great Thou Art*

arr. Joel Raney

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 719 – *Come, Labor On*

* 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 – *Go Down, Moses*

arr. Mark Hayes



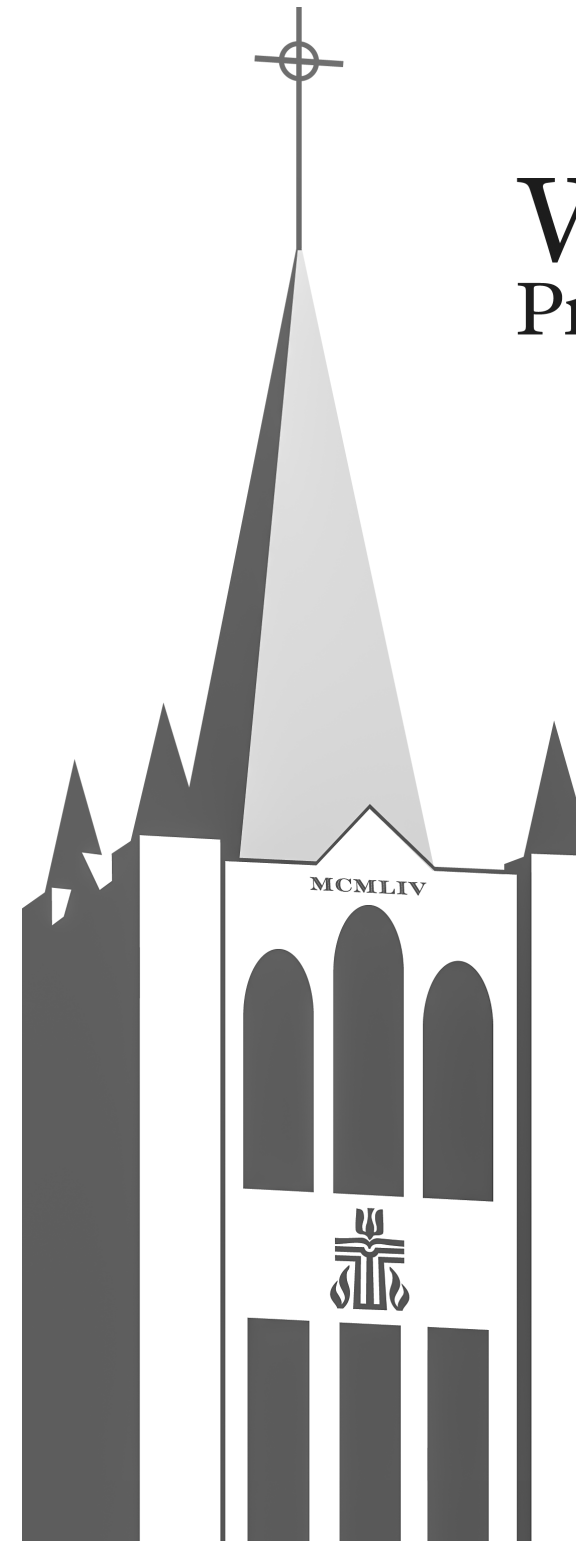
* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

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.*

**Pam Love – recovering from fall*

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

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

**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.

There will be a **church luncheon today following worship in Montague Hall.** All are welcome for this time of food and fellowship.

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

The Session will meet today.

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

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

Chancel Choir will meet at 6:30.

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

New Beginnings will meet tomorrow at noon in Montague Hall. Caroline Nurkin will be our speaker. All are encouraged to come to share a meal and listen to Caroline as she will share with us how her church, Ecclesia, supports a local school for their mission focus. Please let Martha or Tommy know if you will be attending.

From the selection of music, Christopher's lovely statements, your comments, many hugs, the reception, and the commissioning of Jessica Nelson's *Laudatio*, Sunday was a day that I will always remember. I will forever be grateful that I chose to spend the last seven years in my music ministry with you. You are a warm and loving group of people, and getting to know you has been one of my greatest joys. I now have the pleasure of getting to know Westminster from the pew, and look forward to my new role as simply a member.

With love and appreciation,

Kay Guiles



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Articles for the September newsletter

are due to Wes by noon Thursday, Sept. 24. (wes@breadproject.com)