



# 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

MCMLIV



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# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Processional*

Gerald Near

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

Mighty and merciful God, you lead us by your light and clothe us in your grace.

Teach our hearts to treasure the way of life that you desire, so that we might be ready for the one who is coming at an unexpected hour: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Susan Crotwell

Call to Worship (responsive)

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

**the conviction of things not seen.**

Happy are those who trust in the Lord,

**whose hope is in God's steadfast love.**

Let us worship God.

\* Hymn of Praise 463 – *How Firm a Foundation*

\* Call to Confession

We have been buried with Christ in baptism, in order that we might be raised with him through faith in the power of God. Trusting in **God's** grace, let us confess our sin.

\* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Faithful and loving God, we confess that we have not lived in faith and love. We offer you great pageants of piety and ignore your call to do what is right. We busy ourselves with idle pleasures and fail to prepare for your coming realm. Forgive us, God of grace. Give us the gift of faith, so that we might set our hope on the better things you have promised; through Jesus Christ our Lord.** (time for silent confession)

\* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Once we were dead in sin; now we are alive in Christ. 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

Blessing of Backpacks

Prayer for Illumination

Your Word, O God, enlightens our path and shows us the way to go. Open the ears of our hearts and speak to us now that we may know your desire for our lives, and respond with joy. Amen.

First Reading – Luke 12:32-40

pew Bible pg. 847

The Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – The *Tree of Life*

K. Lee Scott

(words are printed in announcements)

Second Reading – Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

pew Bible pg. 977

The Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *People Who Speak in this Way*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

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

\* Affirmation of Faith: selections from A Brief Statement of Faith 1983 (unison)

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, we pray for the fulfillment of God's promise, saying: In faith, O God, **we seek your grace.**

We pray for the church . . . Help us to proclaim the mystery of faith, our conviction in the gospel of Christ and our assurance of new life in him. In faith, O God, **we seek your grace.**

We pray for the world . . . Be the help and shield of those who suffer in famine or warfare. Let your steadfast love be upon them. In faith, O God, **we seek your grace.**

We pray for this community . . . Teach us to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the helpless, and plead for those who are forsaken. In faith, O God, **we seek your grace.**

We pray for loved ones . . . Watch over them with your loving eye to deliver them from trouble, so that their hearts may rejoice in you. In faith, O God, **we seek your grace.**

Strengthen us to run the race that is before us, laying aside the heavy burdens of sin and death and following the pioneer and perfecter of our faith: Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen 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

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 — *Sicillienne*

Maria Theresia von Paradis

\* 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 our offerings 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 39 — *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

\* 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 — *The Rejoicing*

George Frideric Handel



# PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

*(\* new added prayers)*

*Sara Amos, member of Pineview Presbyterian – recovering from major surgery*

*Terri Banks, friend of Pam Love – at home with 24-hour care*

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

*Jan Bozeman – constant pain*

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

*Vida Davis, sister of Ruthie Davis – dementia*

*Jessica Dubing, daughter of a friend of Ruthie Davis – paralyzed from motorcycle accident*

*\*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*

*Hudson Elliott, grandson of friends of the Reidenbachs – home after 6 months in NICU*

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

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

*Larry Gunn, Mary Gunn's husband – health concerns*

*Mary Gunn – prayers for health concerns*

*Arlandra Harvey, former choir member – kidney transplant recovery*

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

*Charlotte Hill*

*Ann Johnson*

*Geraldine Jones*

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

*B.J. Lambert*

*Margaret Lochhead – prayers for healing*

*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*

*Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength*

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

*Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – health issues*

*Jasmine Smith, Janet Baldwin's daughter – recovery from breast surgery*

*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*

*\*Rose Marie Yore – spinal fusion surgery, August 11*

## PRAYERS FOR A SAFE JOURNEY

Brody Creel is on a mission trip in France with YWAM (Youth With A Mission). His time there will consist of a full-time job in construction and yard work, growing in his faith, and spreading the love of Christ. Visit [www.ywambridges.com](http://www.ywambridges.com) to learn more about the organization.



# 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.

**All students aged preschool – college** are invited to come forward for the blessing of backpacks during Time with Children. (Please come even if you forgot your backpack.)

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

**Choir rehearsal** will be Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

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

**New Beginnings** will meet Monday, Aug. 18 at noon. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you are coming.

**Deacons and Elders** will have a joint meeting on Sunday, Aug. 24, following worship.

**Circle 3** will meet Thurs., Aug. 14, from 6-7 p.m. at the Reidenbach's house. An email will be coming with more information or contact Karen Reidenbach or Dixie Coats.

*The Tree of Life*

K. Lee Scott

1. There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
2. Whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.
3. Its name is **Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"**  
There on its branches see the scars of suffering:  
See where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.
4. Thorns not his own are tangled in its foliage;  
Our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! It lives! Its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.
5. See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says,  
**"Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow.  
I will give blessing."**
6. This is my ending, this my resurrection; into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.
7. **All heaven is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose Passion offers in mercy healing,  
Strength and pardon. Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"**  
Amen. Amen! My Master!

Just as the human body needs eyes, hands, ears, lungs, etc., so does the Body of Christ. We have many small group opportunities for growth, fellowship and service here at Westminster. We encourage members to use their gifts to participate in the mission of this congregation and to invite others to join us in serving Jesus Christ.

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**The Seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

A Symbolic Statement of the Church

The Cross – Christianity

The Transept – Bible and Pulpit

The Dove – The Holy Spirit

The Intersection – Baptismal Font or

Communion Cup

Flames – Implied triangle, the Trinity

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**Class of 2026**

Iris Easterling  
Jeff Haydel  
Rhoda Pickett

**THE SESSION**

**Class of 2027**

Tom Estes  
Connie Roberts  
Karen Reidenbach

**Class of 2028**

Gwen Combs  
Pam Love  
Charlie Parkman

**Class of 2026**

Robert Cummings, Jr.

**THE TRUSTEES**

**Class of 2027**

J T Johnson

**Class of 2028**

Althea Jerome

**Class of 2026**

Dixie Coats  
Christopher Cox  
Carrie Creel  
Michael Yore

**THE DEACONS**

**Class of 2027**

Matthew Boucher  
Judy Haydel  
Ryan Reid  
Sarah Beth Suttle

**Class of 2028**

Gwen Combs  
Brandon Hayes  
Carlie Kaeppler  
Drew Suttle

**Youth Representative**

Elisa Suttle

**CHURCH STAFF**

Christopher Crotwell, Minister  
Robert Cummings, Jr., Financial Officer  
Kay Guiles, Organist  
Katie Ginn, Youth and Children Director

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship  
Martha Davis, Church Administrator  
Wes Brooks, Communications  
Ray Robinson, Sexton

Michael Ginn, Chancel Choir; **Children's Music Director**