



Williamsburg Presbyterian Church  
Fifth Sunday in Lent • Children's Sunday  
March 17, 2024

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## PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Blessed are you, O Lord; you are ever faithful to your promises. Open our hearts to hear your voice in bellowing thunder and deafening silence, declaring the truths of salvation. Open our hearts to see your face in the sorrow of death and joy of life, making known the way of salvation. Open our hearts to glorify your name in faithful obedience and bold action, for you are the source of salvation. Amen.

## THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Annie Beckhusen

#### MINUTE FOR MISSION: One Great Hour of Sharing

Judy Austin

#### PRELUDE

Open Our Eyes, Lord  
Carol Choir and Junior Choir

arr. Bechtler

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**All: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.**

Leader: The Lord makes a new covenant with us and writes the law upon our hearts.

**All: The Lord is our God, and we are God's people. Let us seek the Lord and treasure God's word in our hearts.**

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\*To all who are able, please stand as we offer God thanks and praise.

**Bold type face** indicates that the congregation participates in word or song.

**\*HYMN 53**

*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

NOEL

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts, confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Redeeming God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and have not loved our neighbors as we ought; we have strayed from your commandments. Do not remember our sins, but forgive our iniquities, that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER**

**\*KYRIE**

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Delight in the joy of your salvation.

**GLORIA IN ABEYANCE DURING LENT**

## THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (unison)


Speak to us now, O Lord. Guide us by your Word and Spirit all along this Lenten journey. Open our hearts and minds to understand and follow what you are saying to us in the message of the Scriptures. Empower us in these forty days to live into your ways in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON:** *Jeremiah 31:31-34*


This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**


## O God, Who Gives Us Life




1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,  
 3 O God of cov-e-nant and law, re-vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
 to plumb the bleak a-byss of doubt and find you e-ven there:  
 your might-y deeds e-voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de-liv-er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
 when we de-spair in wan-der-ing through wastes of emp-ty lies,  
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo-ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir-it still is mak-ing all things new.  
 re-fresh us with the liv-ing spring of hope that nev-er dies.  
 as on our hearts you write a-new the cov-e-nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31–34).

**PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22** *from The Message* (responsive)

Leader: How can a young person live a clean life?

**All: By carefully reading the map of your Word.**

Leader: I'm single-minded in pursuit of you;

**All: don't let me miss the road signs you've posted.**

Leader: I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart

**All: so I won't sin myself bankrupt.**

Leader: Be blessed, God;

**All: train me in your ways of wise living.**

Leader: I'll transfer to my lips

all the counsel that comes from your mouth;

**All: I delight far more in what you tell me about living  
than in gathering a pile of riches.**

**SECOND LESSON:** *John 12:20-33 from The Message*

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*"A Grain of Wheat"*

Rev. Pam Hrcir

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN 250**

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (responsive)

**All: We believe in God.**

Leaders: Tell me about God? What does God do?

God makes the stars and spiders.

God is warm and bright and full of color.

God is our friend – who loves us and calls us by name.

**All: We believe in Jesus.**

Leaders: What is he like? Tell me about him.

He was exciting!

He told lots of stories.

He listened to people – he made them think.

Some people didn't like Jesus. They told lies about him.

He was sentenced to death and killed.

(continues on the next page.)

# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

## Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
 F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."  
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

But God brought Jesus back to life again.  
Following Jesus is an adventure – a journey – a good surprise.

**All: We believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Leaders: Tell me about her? What does she do?  
She helps us remember what Jesus said.  
She lets us know how much God loves us.  
She helps us to love other people.  
She's someone we can't see but feel  
like the wind blowing in our hair  
like the warmth of a candle flame.

**All: We believe in the Church.**

Leaders: This church here?  
Every church, all of them together.  
Not the buildings, but all the people who love God.  
All of us working together with God to make the world beautiful.

**All: We believe God calls us.**

Leaders: To do what?  
To love all people.  
To forgive them when they hurt us.  
To trust and not be afraid.  
To help make the world the place God wants it to be.  
To care for the world and enjoy it.  
Amen  
What did you say?  
Amen – it means so be it, OK, let it happen.  
Oh, OK – Amen!

**All: Amen**

From the book *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

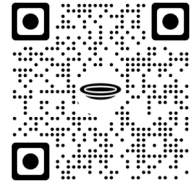
## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)**

**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.**

## OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary
- Visit [mywpc.org/offering](http://mywpc.org/offering) or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Reach for What's Next

K. Houts

Carol Choir and Junior Choir

There will be days when the sky is dark,  
The world seems cold, and needs a spark.  
There will be times when your soul is blue,  
Your heart feels gray, your mind does, too.

Refrain:

Rise up with those around you.  
We're stronger when we go through  
Hard things together.  
We're not alone.  
Won't you come with me?  
Be all we can be?  
Sharing joy and welcome, hope and courage,  
Shining light that might encourage  
All God's children  
To reach for what's next.

We're not alone as we walk this road,  
So meet the need, and share the load  
There might be someone who needs a smile,  
Or may need time to rest a while. (Refrain)

Look beyond our reflection.  
Can we make a connection?  
Don't just look past,  
See the outcast,  
Help them outlast  
The weight of the world. (Refrain)

**\*DOXOLOGY***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

TALLIS' CANON

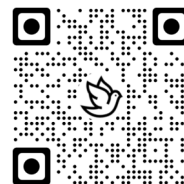
**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

**\*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING**

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit [mywpc.org/friendship](http://mywpc.org/friendship) or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.

**\*HYMN 753***Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION****SENDING**

Go Now in Peace

Sleeth

**POSTLUDE**

Piece Symphonique

Franck

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

### ∞ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ∞

The flowers are given today to the glory of God and  
in memory of their loved ones, by Aurelia and Tommy Michaels.

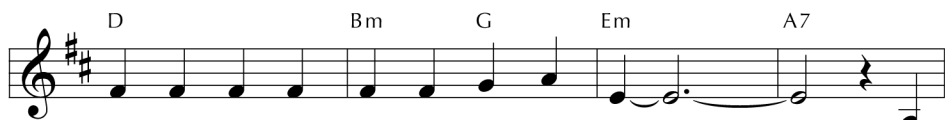


# 753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

## Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where  
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where  
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where  
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where  
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and  
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and  
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
 where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.  
 dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.



3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so



much to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

## ✧ THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ✧

### **PASTORS**

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff

Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

Carol and Junior Choirs under the direction of Rebecca Elton

Children of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

### **LITURGIST**

Annie Beckhusen

### **GREETER**

9:30am Ann Schulte

11:00am Ann Schulte, Jim Austin

### **USHERS**

9:30am Cora Sanders, Julia Sanders, Nolan Walton, Armand Teague, Jack Kirkpatrick  
Rick Murray, Pat Murray, Rebecca Caprio

11:00am Nolan Walton, Armand Teague, Jacob Plum, William Plum, Jack Kirkpatrick  
Kirk Lovenbury, Bob Bolstad, Nancy Rose, Megan Davis

### **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST**

Happy Simmons, Ralph Simmons, Jim Winthrop

### **\*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Barbara Stirling, Bruce Minett

### **\*WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Paul Hotinger

**AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS:** Mike Squire and John Schoenberger

\*Satellite campuses

## **❧ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ❧**

- **In need of one-on-one prayer? Please look for a Stephen Minister in the Fellowship Hall or the church foyer after the morning services. They will find a private place to talk and pray with you. Just look for the blue Stephen Ministry name tags.**
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

## **❧ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ❧**

To share a joy or concern, please visit [www.mywpc.org](http://www.mywpc.org), select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is: Jo Ann Youhas ([handbellringer@cox.net](mailto:handbellringer@cox.net)). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

**If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. To reach a Pastor during the week, please call the church office.**

### **Sunday, March 17 – Saturday, March 23**

Pastor John E. Morgan • [jmorgan@mywpc.org](mailto:jmorgan@mywpc.org) • 757-903-7800

### **The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:**

- Patricia McIver and family on the death of WPC member, Duncan McIver, who died on Thursday, March 7, 2024. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024 at 2pm in our sanctuary followed by a reception in Stevenson Hall.

### **Please pray for:**

- Tom Cobb, Lynn Curtin, Carole McNeel, Bob Siclari, Ellie Thuermer, Stephen Custer.
- Those who have recently lost loved ones, those recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound.
- Those serving our country in the military services and their families.
- Those affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.

## ❧ ANNOUNCEMENTS ❧

- **Mid-Week Lenten Services:** Please note the new time, **Wednesdays at Noon in Stevenson Hall. This is the only Lenten service offered this year.** Bring your lunch or order a boxed lunch at [mywpc/lentlunch](http://mywpc/lentlunch) or stop by the church Welcome Center and complete an order form. **Orders must be placed by Sunday evening.**
- **One Great Hour of Sharing reaches out to bring relief and hope to a needy world.** Your gifts to this special offering helps to provide food, shelter, water, and more to those who are suffering. We see images of those in despair in Ukraine, Syria, The Middle East, and here at home. The needs are great. Jesus calls us to provide for “those who have the least.” Please help make a difference. Envelopes are available in the bulletin today for your gifts. Checks may be written to WPC with “One Great Hour of Sharing” on the memo line. Or you may give to special offerings on the [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org) website.
- **Holy Land Trip 2025:** You have been hearing about the wonderful trip members of WPC took to visit the Holy Lands in 2023. We would like to share this life-changing experience with others. Team Leaders *Pastor John, Ellen Peters, and CW Stacks* are planning a trip for the Spring of 2025. We know that right now there is a lot of tension in Israel, but we hope the situation will calm down by the time we travel. Sunlight Tours has offered a generous full refund policy if the trip has to be canceled by Sunlight Tours or if for safety reasons you need to cancel. Consider being a part of this unique and meaningful trip. **Tour leaders, Ellen Peters and CW Stacks, will be available in Stevenson Hall during Coffee Fellowship TODAY, March 17 and Sunday, March 24 to answer questions.** Visit [mywpc.org/holyland](http://mywpc.org/holyland) for more information and to find a link to a video of the presentation the 2023 group shared with our members after their return. You can also view the video directly on our YouTube channel at [mywpc.org/holyland2023](http://mywpc.org/holyland2023).
- **Today is the deadline to donate an Easter Lily in Honor or in Memory of someone while helping to beautify our church on Easter Sunday. A donation of \$17 per lily is requested.** Place your order using the envelope in the friendship pads or pay on-line at [www.mywpc.org/lilies](http://www.mywpc.org/lilies).
- **The WPC Book Club** will meet on **Monday, March 25, 2024, at 2 pm** in Room 220 (and on Zoom) to discuss *The Displacements*, by Bruce Holsinger.
- **The Story of DANIEL at the Sight & Sound Theater:** Have you ever wondered what it would be like to experience first-hand the stories of the Bible? Now is your chance! You are invited to immerse yourself as if you were there when we travel via motorcoach to this most unique experience scheduled **for October 9-10, 2024.** It will be held at the beautiful **Sight & Sound Theater** in Lancaster, PA. From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, **the Story of DANIEL** is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible’s most hope-filled stories as it comes to life.

The trip includes show ticket, meals (including a dinner at an Amish Smorgasbord), transportation, and overnight stay at a hotel a short distance from the theater. All-inclusive cost is \$330.00 per person single occupancy; \$280.00 per person double occupancy. Costs are based on 45 participants. A minimum deposit of \$150 per person is due by Monday, April 15 with final payment due by Thursday, July 1, 2024. Seats are limited. Visit [mywpc/daniel](http://mywpc/daniel) to register.

Questions? Please contact \*Janie Moyers.

**ALL-INCLUSIVE TRIP COST INCLUDES** (per person):

- Motor coach bus to Lancaster, PA and return trip to Williamsburg, VA and all transport, including to the dinner and show
- One dinner - Miller's Smorgasbord, Wednesday, October 9
- Ticket to The Story of Daniel at Sight & Sound Theatre, Wednesday, October 9
- One night accommodation at the Best Western Plus Revere Inn & Suites, Paradise, PA
- Breakfast at the hotel, Thursday, October 10
- One boxed lunch

**\*Contact information can be found in our online directory.**

**You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.**

**More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at [mywpc.org/news/](http://mywpc.org/news/) or on the church calendar.**

## ✧ UPCOMING WORSHIP INFORMATION ✧

- Our Ash Wednesday worship service held on February 14, 2024, marked the beginning of The Season of Lent and the mid-week worship services during Lent. **New this year at WPC is a weekly Wednesday Luncheon and Lenten service at 12pm in Stevenson Hall.** Join Pastor John and Pastor Pam for a time of worship and afterwards fellowship over lunch. Our meditations will be adapted from "*Meeting Jesus at the Table*" by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Fohr. We will start with a brief service which will conclude by sharing the Lord's Supper – breaking bread and sharing the cup with Christ and one another. Then we will meet Jesus at the table by eating lunch together. You can bring a brown bag lunch or order a lunch ahead of time on our website or in the Welcome Center.
- Join us for worship each **Sunday in Lent at 9:30am and 11am** in the sanctuary. The 9:30am service is live-streamed on our website and the 11am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740.
- Services Wednesday afternoon and Sunday morning are a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds for the Passion and Resurrection of Easter Week. Worship services at WPC are open to all and we encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us.

## ✧ WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING HOLY WEEK ✧

- **March 24 Palm Sunday** services, 9:30\* and 11am+
- **March 28 Maundy Thursday** service, 7pm\* • The Lord's Supper will be served
- **March 29 Family Good Friday** service, 5pm in Stevenson Hall  
**Good Friday Tenebrae** service at 7pm\*
- **March 31 Easter Sunday** services at 8, 9:30\* and 11am+

\*Service will be in-person and live-streamed on [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org).

+Service will be in-person and broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740.

∞ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ∞

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org) to access  
10:30am Fellowship Coffee Hour / Stevenson Hall  
11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or [wmbgradio.com](http://wmbgradio.com)  
5:30pm Youth Group / CE Wing

**MONDAY, MARCH 18**

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123  
7:00pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Choir Rm

**TUESDAY, MARCH 19**

10:00am Adult Bible Study / Rm 220  
1:00pm Staff Meeting / Zoom  
7:00pm Incoming Elders Training / Rm 220  
7:00pm Incoming Deacons Training / Stevenson Hall  
7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20**

12:00pm Mid-week Lenten Worship Service and Luncheon / Stevenson Hall  
6:00pm Genesis Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm  
6:30pm Administration Ministry Mtg / Rm 220  
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21**

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning  
12:00pm Organ Lessons / Sanctuary  
4:30pm Carol Choir and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Children's Choir Rm  
7:30pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23**

10:00am Easter Egg Hunt / Through WPC

∞ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ∞

**March 24, 2024 • Palm Sunday**

The sermon "*I Have Set My Face Like Flint*" based on Isaiah 50:4-9a.

**\*9:30am service is live-streamed on [mywpc.org](http://mywpc.org).**

**\*\*11:00am service is broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740**