

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

God of unquenchable fire and overflowing grace, cast out the demons that oppress us; take away the things that make us stumble. Lead us into your realm of life and season us with your peace; in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Fritz Ober

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Rise Against Hunger

Gary Davis, Outreach

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on Blessed Jesus, We Are Here

J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Upon this gathering of your people, All: pour out your Spirit, O Lord.

Leader: Be near to us and speak to us,

All: and we will proclaim your glory.

*HYMN 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

^{*}Please rise in body or spirit.
Bold type face congregation participates in word or song.

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In faithful prayer there is power to save the sick; anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore let us confess our sins and pray for one another so that we may be healed.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, our strength and savior, you know our great transgressions, our hidden faults, our secret sins. With our hands we grasp at power; with our feet we stumble into evil; with our eyes we look out for ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and lead us in your holy way of life and love and peace; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER



*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Though we wander from the truth, God brings us back and saves our souls from death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.



(11:00) At this time any and all children through the 5th grade are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Laura Bechtler

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Lord God, by the power of your Spirit, enlighten our eyes, instruct our minds, rejoice our hearts, and revive our souls so that our lips and our lives may bear witness to your Word. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: James 5:13-18

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 19:7-14 (unison)

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure. making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure. enduring forever: the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

SECOND LESSON: *Mark* 9:38-41, 50

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

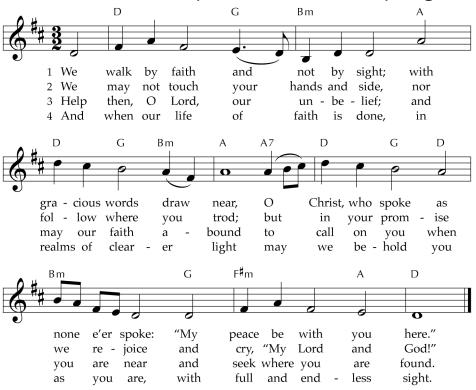
SFRMON

"Whoever Is Not Against Us Is For Us"

Pastor John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)

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.

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 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

Be Still, My Soul

arr. Nick Ashby

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change, he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly Friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart, And all is darkened in the veil of tears, Then shalt thou better know his love, his heart, Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears. Be still my soul: thy Jesus can repay from his own fullness all he takes away.

(Offertory continues on the next page.)

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on When we shall be forever with the Lord; When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past All safe and blessed, we shall meet at last.



*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 <u>mywpc.org/friendship</u> or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Finlandia Sibelius

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.

>> NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC ◆

The familiar hymn "Be Still, My Soul" echoes Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." It is a comforting text, reminding us that God will see us through our struggles. The hymn tune is the emotional core of a larger work composed by Jean Sibelius in 1899 as a protest against Russian censorship, and *Finlandia* has become Sibelius's most widely recognized composition. Arranger Nick Ashby is a member of the King's Singers and arranged this piece for them.

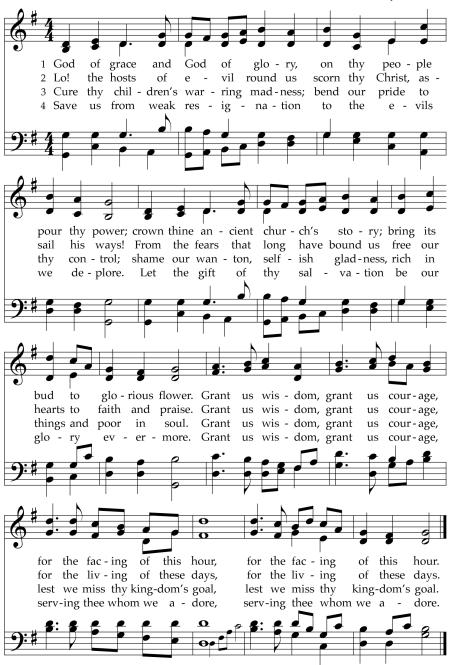
An organ arrangement of the full piece is offered as this morning's postlude. It begins by highlighting the turmoil and struggle of the Finnish people against the Russian Empire. The hymn tune is featured, followed by a triumphant closing section.

>> THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ◆

The Chancel Flowers last Sunday were given to the glory of God and in memory of her husband, Phillip, by Pat Trimble.

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of their daughter, Jenifer and their parents, John & Matilda Kohout and Albert & Caroline Graff by Joan & John Kohout.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory



This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

>> THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ◆ ↑

PASTOR

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff

Pam Hrncir. Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

WPC Chancel Choir

GREETERS

9:30am Bill Riffer

11:00am Tim and Susie Newens

USHERS

9:30am JD Due, Tony Annoni, John VanAken, Shanna Due

11:00am Gene D'Orsogna, Ellen D'Orsogna, Megan Davis, Ric Cheston

LITURGIST

Fritz Ober

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Laura Bechtler

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Sarah Dulaney, David Littell, Karol Sibley

*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS

Barbara Stirling and Bruce Minett

*WINDSOR MEADE USHER

Paul Hotinger and Ray Whitney

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Matt Slack and John Schoenberger

^{*}Satellite campuses

≈ CHILDREN'S STATEMENT ≪

Children are welcome at WPC! We have Sunday School for all ages at 9:30am and a nursery for children ages 3 and below during both services. We also have children's worship bags and sensory objects available to be borrowed while in the building. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating anything.

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in this house of worship. Parents, feel free to sit near the front where children can see, explain the parts of the service to them, and invite them to learn by watching and copying. And relax, God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

≫ 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, 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 (handbellringer2@gmail.com). 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.

<u>Sunday, September 29 – Saturday, October 5</u>

Pastor Pam • phrncir@mywpc.org • 757-508-4668

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

• The families of WPC who have lost beloved family members or friends recently.

Please pray for our sick and shut-in:

 Bob Siclari, Carol Sorensen, George Harris, Lee Beach, Clara Crumbly, Wolf Koenig, Nell Stowe, Doris Gilfillan, Carole McNeel

Please pray for those:

 Recovering from various surgeries and our sick and shut-ins who are at home or facility bound, who have family and friend concerns, attending and serving in the school systems, serving our country in the military services and their families, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan and Ukraine.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

- Fall Ice Cream Social TODAY: September 29, 2:00-4:00pm in the small parking lot next to the playground. Drop in to enjoy some ice cream with your favorite topping and a relaxing afternoon with WPC church family members! Please sign up in the Welcome Center or online at mywpc.org/calendar so we can plan for you. All are welcome! Contact Bev Whitley or the church office with any questions.
- Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women: The Presbyterian Women of WPC are inviting the congregation to join in them in a prison ministry sponsored by Grace Inside to provide inmates with a gift of personal items at Christmas. This ministry means so much to the inmates. It sends the message that even though they have made a mistake, people still care about them God still cares about them. The items are limited to: one toothbrush in its original container, 6.0 oz of toothpaste, 2.6 oz stick deodorant, 15 oz body lotion, and 18 oz of shampoo. Amounts cannot be exceeded. The Presbyterian Women are happy to purchase items if you wish to give a cash donation instead. Each gift costs about \$7.25. All items or cash in an envelope should be placed in the box marked "Fluvanna" in the Welcome Center through October. Questions may be directed to Pat Underwood*
- SAVE THE DATE for Kitchen Orientation and Training Final Date: Thursday, October 3, 3:30 pm. Our WPC Kitchen gets a lot of use and some changes have occurred recently. If you are a deacon or member volunteer who helps with events from coffee hour, memorial receptions, special event meals or any of the outreach programs providing food for the community, this is for you. Joe Avellar will instruct us on some of the kitchen basics that we all need to remember. In addition, learn how to use the new warmer, make coffee, use the convection and gas oven, run the dishwasher, discover where items are stored, and answer any questions you may have. Signup in the Welcome Center for the October training date.
- The Squares consider "arrogance." Last month The Squares talked about Gideon, who was humble and trusted in God. In contrast this month The Squares will look at Samson, who was very powerful, arrogant and trusted his own strength. Yet, like Gideon, God used Samson to save Israel from their enemy. So who does God prefer, a person like Gideon or one like Samson? Perplexing isn't it? All men are invited to join the Squares on Thursday, October 3, at 7:30pm in room 227, or via Zoom to struggle with this question.
- Sign up Now for the First KidsConnect Day Camp of the School Year: Friday, October 4, 9am-4pm. When our public school teachers have scheduled work days, the students have one-day student holidays. On these days throughout the school year, WPC provides a loving, safe, fun and meaningful day for our school-age children, Kindergarten through 5th Grade.

The following dates have been set for KidsConnect Day Camp: October 4, 2024, November 4, 2024, January 27, 2025, March 3, 2025; 9am - 4pm. The cost is \$15/camper per session, with a \$40 maximum per family, to be collected at the door. Register below for any or all days. Registration for all sessions is now open online and space is limited.

• Community Connections Fellowship Breakfast: We are reimagining a new fellowship breakfast for WPC. Instead of it being a "Men's" breakfast we want it to be for EVERYONE. What we loved about the former Men's Fellowship Breakfast was the time to eat and meet people at WPC and guests. We also appreciated learning about our community through the speakers we invited to present. With that in mind we are looking for women and men, young and senior to be a part of a leadership team for Community Connections Fellowship Breakfast. We see this event meeting once a quarter for breakfast and fellowship. We hope to invite speakers who will help us connect with the Williamsburg community. A suggestion was to invite non-profits that are serving Williamsburg. Please contact Pastor John if you are interested in this endeavor. Meanwhile, we will not have a fellowship breakfast until January when we hope we can begin.

- Dining Together: We are a BIG church! We cherish the wonderful things a large congregation makes possible, including many opportunities to work together in SMALL groups. So, why not just have some fun getting to know other members of WPC through great conversations over lunch or dinner together this fall and winter. Our Dining Together groups will be organized in October and kick off with a potluck dinner at the church on Sunday, November 3. Singles and couples are encouraged to participate. In the past, diners often rotated hosting in each other's homes, but more recently, choosing favorite restaurants to share together has become a popular option. Please sign up before Monday, October 21 and indicate your preferences. Sign ups will begin Sunday, October 6 in the fellowship hall, the back entrance and in the welcome center. We hope to see you there.
- Mark your calendars for our Fall Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, October 12, 10am to noon in Stevenson Hall.
- First Baptist Church will host a Community Prayer Service for our Nation: Redemption, Reconciliation, and Righteousness on Thursday, October 10, 2024, 6:00pm at 727 Scotland Street, Williamsburg, VA. You are invited to join us to gather in prayer, praise, and worship in song. We are asking singers to participate in the Community Choir to provide the music. Music will be provided based on general hymns of worship. We desire to glorify God and pray for our nation. For more information, please contact Reginald Fox, Director of Music, First Baptist Church, rfox@fbc1776.org or the church at (757) 229-1952.
- Father Elias Chacour, Palestinian Peacekeeper Talk: During the 2023 WPC Journey to the Holy Land, our pilgrims had an opportunity to spend a morning with Father Elias Chacour, a Palestinian Peacekeeper who has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He will be in the U.S. in October and give live stream talks and a sermon during his visit. If you would like to hear Father Chacour's message of peace and reconciliation, there will be two opportunities to view a live-stream of one of Father Chacour's talks listed:

Ft Wayne, IN - Oct 10, 6:30pm ET

Plymouth Congregational Church
https://bit.ly/ICMEPAbuna

Goshen, IN - Oct 11, 7pm ET

Assembly Mennonite & Faith Mennonite
https://bit.ly/IVMEPAbuna

- New Member Orientation Luncheon: October 13 immediately after 11am worship in Stevenson Hall. Come and enjoy great food and great conversation with members and staff as you get to know the people and ministries of WPC. If the Spirit is leading you to become part of the WPC family, please reach out to Pastor Pam, Deacon Eric Beckhusen*, or the church office. We look forward to getting to know you better.
- HOLD THE DATE: Saturday, November 2, 2024, is the date for our RISE AGAINST HUNGER event. Mark your calendars so everyone can participate in the event to help eradicate World Hunger. This year we plan to package 45,000 meals at a cost of \$18,500. Look for the RISE AGAINST HUNGER notifications regarding shifts and how to sign up. Also, be sure to "opt in" to the RAH group in ShelbyNext. You can also reach out with questions or concerns by sending a note to volunteer@mywpc.org
- Help Feed our UKirk Students! We are looking for people or groups willing to help feed our UKirk Students
 on Tuesday Nights at 6:30pm. We have a group of around 15 students who would love to meet you, and
 share in a home cooked meal.

Can't be there or don't cook? Sign up to have food delivered or to give a gift card to a favorite restaurant. https://mealtrain.com/oy3ggn

*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/ or on the church calendar.

>> THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ◆

SUNDAY. SEPTEMBER 29

9:30am-12pm Nursery open during both worship services 9:30am Sunday School / Christian Education Wing

9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit 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

2:00pm All-Church Fall Ice Cream Social / Small Parking Lot and Playground

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123

6:30pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Sanctuary

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

10:00am Adult Bible Study—Christian Believer: Knowing God with Heart and Mind / Rm 220

1:00pm In-person Staff Meeting / Stevenson Hall
 1:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting / Rm 220
 6:30pm UKirk Dinner & Dialogue /UKirk Rm

7:00pm Hybrid PW Circle 4 Anna / Rm 220 and Zoom

7:00pm Hybrid Earth Care Committee Meeting / Library and Zoom 7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

9:30am UKirk Feeding Faith / Location TBD
10:00am Monthly Grief Support Group / Rm 220

1:30pm Preschool Dance & Play / Rm 123 and Rm 125 5:00pm Nominating Committee Meeting / Rm 220

6:00pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm

7:00pm Wednesday Wonders—Favorite Foods / LL012 UKirk

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning

9:30am Presbyterian Women Circle 1 Ruth / Stevenson Hall

3:30pm Kitchen Orientation and Training / Kitchen 4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

7:30pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

7:30pm The Squares / Rm 227

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

UKirk Fall Retreat / Lake Gaston

9:00am Kids Connect Camp / Throughout WPC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

3:00pm Setup for World Communion Sunday / Sanctuary

> NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ◆

October 6, 2024 • 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor John's sermon "Let the Children Come" will be based on Mark 10:13-16.