



WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace—to meet hatred with kindness, to answer curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GATHERING

PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

PASTORAL GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John E. Morgan

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Shrove Tuesday

Rev. Pam Hrcir

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Jackson Black

PRELUDE

Melody

Coleridge-Taylor

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Take delight in the Lord,
who satisfies the desires of your heart.

**All: Commit your way to the Lord
and trust in God's actions.**

Leader: Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently for God.

**All: The Lord is our salvation
and our refuge in times of trouble.**

*Please rise in body or spirit. The people's responses are in **bold type**.

*HYMN 410

God Is Calling through the Whisper

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus promised us that God is kind even to the ungrateful and the wicked, even to us.
Trusting in God's kindness and love, let us confess our sin.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Caring God, we confess that we have not loved this world well. We have not loved ourselves. We have dismissed concepts of love as frivolous and naïve, failing to recognize the wisdom in choosing tenderness and attachment in a society that trains us to exploit one another. We have lost our passions, allowing our days to be consumed with the practical and the boring. Our delight has been drained as we try to survive exhaustion. We confess we are afraid, lacking the courage to risk ourselves on love for fear of losing it. We have taken advantage of those we know will not leave us, withholding affection and allowing them to receive so much more of our hatred than our gratitude. Forgive us. And have mercy on all our charades of heartlessness, that we would claim a life of more than mere survival. That we would love and be loved in return, all our days, in love's many forms. Amen.+

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

*KYRIE

Be Still and Know

Anonymous

The musical notation is written on two staves in 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "I am God. Be still and know that I am God." The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and ties.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Let your soul receive this rest: Forgive yourself, choosing self-compassion over unlove. Be assured by the divine that, despite our deepest doubts, you are lovable. That you are adored by God, as they look upon your face and swell with delight. May you be forgiven for how you've replicated lovelessness in the world. And as you are nourished by abounding mercy, may you also extend it, remembering that we are healed by both love received and love given. Amen.+

+from *Black Liturgies* by Cole Arthur Riley

410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!



This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

***GLORIA**

Alleluia!

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is a simple, rhythmic tune with a mix of eighth and quarter notes, and some rests. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating the syllables. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Jim Kirkpatrick

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Jack Black

Gracious God, by your Word you provide all we need—for salvation, for wholeness, for abundant life. Now draw us close in your Spirit so that we may discover your will and live according to your purposes, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: *Genesis 45:3-11, 15*

Jack Black

**This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 (unison)

**Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the Lord and do good;
live in the land and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,**

(Psalm continues on the next page.)

over those who carry out evil devices.
Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.
Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
The Lord helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked and saves them
because they take refuge in him.

SECOND LESSON: *Luke 6:27-38*

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Be Merciful”

Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 819

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: MICAH 6:8** (unison)

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

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.

Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
 2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord;

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide,
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

This meditative text seems to be rooted in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God," while also reaching forward to 1 Thessalonians 4:17b, "we will be with the Lord forever." Much of the appeal of this hymn comes from its tune, named for the tone poem on which it is based.

LIVING AND DYING IN CHRIST

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heaven - ly Friend
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past

through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

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

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Thomas Keesecker

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

Such a Way as gives us breath:

Such a Truth as ends all strife:

Such a Life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, My Strength:

Such a Light as shows a feast:

Such a Feast as mends in length:

Such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

Such a Joy as none can move:

Such a Love as none can part:

Such a Heart as joys in love.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; praise

God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

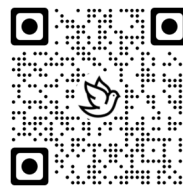
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

*INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING

We are glad you are worshipping 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 or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.



*HYMN 295

Go to the World

SINE NOMINE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Great Day

Hailstork

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 ❧

This morning's prelude is from the pen of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912), a prominent Black composer living in London. His father was a descendent of African-American slaves who repatriated to England following the American Revolutionary War. With promising musical talent, he attended the Royal College of Music at age 15, studied with Charles Villiers Stanford, and went on to compose instrumental and choral works. He aspired to incorporate elements of traditional African music into classical composition. In 1904, a visit to the United States included a reception with President Theodore Roosevelt. Coleridge-Taylor passed away at the age of 39 due to pneumonia, likely related to financial stress.

This morning's postlude is a setting of the spiritual *Great Day*, which speaks to the day that the Lord will return to set all things right. This song would have been sung, in call and response, by enslaved people working in fields, hoping for their own day of freedom. An excellent study of the text can be found at <https://www.debisimons.com/when-will-the-great-day-occur>. This setting is by the accomplished composer Adolphus Hailstork, who lives in Virginia Beach and is a professor of music at Old Dominion University.

Go to the World!

295



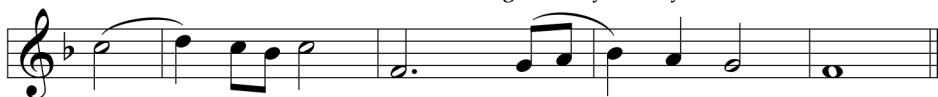
1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19-20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

∞ **THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** ∞

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Donaldson Tillar, III, killed in action February 27, 1991
by Hazel and Don Tillar.

∞ **THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY** ∞

PASTOR

John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff

Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music Ministries

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

LITURGIST

Jackson Black

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Jim Kirkpatick

GREETERS

9:30am Bill Riffer, Cheryl Roettger

11:00am Tom Moul

USHERS

9:30am Matthew Underwood, Pat Underwood, David Littell

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Patty Yewcic, Megan Davis, Kirk Lovenbury

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST

Sarah Dulaney, Dorothy Geyer

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Janice and William McGuire

***WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Ray Whitney

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Dave McLain 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. During the week, please call the church office.

Sunday, February 23 – Saturday, March 1 • Pastor Pam • phrncir@mywpc.org • 757-508-4668

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

- The family of WPC member Alice Smith, wife of WPC member John Smith, who went home to be with our Lord on Saturday, February 1, 2025. **A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 11am in our sanctuary followed by a reception in Stevenson Hall.**

Please pray for:

Denny Yeignst, Bob Siclari, Carol Sorensen, Wolf Koenig, Nell Stowe, Carole McNeel

Please pray for those:

- Recovering from various surgeries, who are homebound, who have family and friend concerns, affected by the recent airplane tragedies, affected by the fires in California, still affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, attending and serving in the school systems, serving our country in the military services and their families, serving our country in leadership roles, affected by the possibility of job loss, homelessness and hunger, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, and Ukraine.

🌀 ANNOUNCEMENTS 🌀

- **We're invited to Care for Creation! Join us for Kids Connect on March 3rd from 9am-4pm.** Kids will play games, do crafts, learn the story of Noah's Ark, and do a service project. In addition, there will be a special visitor from the Virginia Zoo and kids will get to meet and learn how to care for wild animals! Kids Connect is open to children in Kindergarten-5th grade. The suggested registration fee is \$15 and you can sign up here: mywpc.org/kidsconnect
- **All youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to our lock-in!** We will begin on **Friday night, February 28 at 6:00pm and pickup will be the following morning at 9am.** We will eat pizza, play games, and even go ice skating at the Liberty Ice Pavilion at Merchant Square! Please RSVP online at mywpc.org/lockin or tell Melody and Cory that you'll be there.
- **ADD A BLOSSOM TO THE FLOURISH TREE!** For the month of February, our Flourish Tree theme will be "*Where Do You See God's Love?*" We invite you to take a pink heart (available in the welcome lobby) and write down where you see God's love at work around you and in your life, at WPC or in the world. **We want to hear from all ages.** Then glue it to the Flourish Tree on the wall to make our tree bloom!
- **The Upper Elementary Sunday School Class (Grades 3, 4 and 5) is currently collecting food to support** The Grove Christian Outreach Center. We began this mission project in 2016 and collected 81 pounds of food which in turn served over 100 meals. Since that time our largest collection weighed in at 509 pounds! With your help, our goal is to continue to increase our donation and provide even more meals. We will be collecting donations in our Classroom 204 every Sunday from now through mid-March. Suggestions for donations include nonperishable foods such as canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat and fish, nuts, soups, pasta, breakfast foods and peanut butter. Thank you for your support in making this project a success.
- **Mark your calendars for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, March 4.** Stevenson Hall will have a New Orleans vibe with a Dixieland Band, projects and parade for kids, and of course pancakes (gluten free available)! Time 5:30 - 7:30pm. Cost is \$8 adults, kids 12 and under free. **Sign-ups in the hallway by the rear door or online @mywpc.org/shrove.** You won't want to miss this event.
- **Installation Service for Pastor Pam:** We've been together five years and we are making it official. Join us for the installation service for Pastor Pam as Associate Pastor on **Saturday, March 15, 2025, 11am followed by a reception in Stevenson Hall.**
- **The Fellowship Class invites you to join us on Sunday mornings for our winter study of the Minor Prophets.** We'll have a lively discussion of what God's word to the Israelites means for us as Christians in the 21st century. **We meet in Room L009, and Bibles are provided! Join us at 9:30am each Sunday morning.**

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, FEBRUARY 23

- 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
11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Broadcast on FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com
1:30pm Williamsburg Youth Orchestra Winter Chamber Concert / Stevenson Hall and Sanctuary
4:45pm Youth Choir Rehearsal / Youth Choir Rm
5:30pm Youth Group / CE Wing

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123
2:00pm WPC Book Club / Rm 220
6:30pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Sanctuary

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 10:00am Adult Bible Study—Christian Believer: Knowing God with Heart and Mind / Rm 220
1:00pm Staff Meeting / Zoom
6:30pm UKirk Dinner & Dialogue / UKirk Rm LL012 and LL011
7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 7:30am Men's Bible and Bacon / Stevenson Hall
9:30am Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team Mtg / Rm 220
6:00pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Room
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning
4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm
5:30pm King's Kids Worship Dance / LL049
6:00pm ARC with Williamsburg Orchestra / Stevenson Hall
7:00pm Session Mtg / Rm 220
7:30pm Westminster Ringers / Bell Rm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 6:00pm Youth Lock-in / Rm 22

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

☞ **NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP** ☞

March 2, 2025 • Transfiguration of the Lord

Pastor John's sermon, "*We Will Be Transformed*," will be based on 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2.