

WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Gracious God, when our spirits lift at the beauty of the day, you are Lord; and when chaos threatens to overwhelm and we dread the next news cycle—still, you are Lord. Always you are creating, redeeming, sustaining. Speak then your mercy into this place until we discover the courage to open our eyes, unclench our hands, and move toward our neighbor in need, until all the world rises and moves with the rhythm of your grace; for we long to honor the name of Jesus, by whose breath we pray. Amen.

THE GATHERING PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. John E. Morgan

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Marlee Gillihan

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Rise Against Hunger

Jim Kirkpatrick

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace Joyful Ringers

arr. Sandra Eithum

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

All: God has gathered us in from the wilderness.

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

God has swept away the darkness of the night. All:

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

Today, there is joy in the presence of the angels. All:

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

Our sanctuary is equipped with a T-coil hearing loop. Look for the blue sticker on the pews.



The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: The grace of our Lord overflows for us through the faith and love that are ours in Christ Jesus. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin, saying, create in us a clean heart, O God; put a new and right spirit within us.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we do not understand why you keep on loving us. We hurt our loved ones. We turn our backs on need. We seek revenge for petty wrongs in petty ways. We do not understand why you keep on loving us. Yet even as we speak these words, we know your presence and your love. We are sorry, O God, for we know that sins against one another are sins against you. Make us strong and tender, we pray, that we may live more as you would have us live. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER



*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. In the name of the Lord, who is our portion and our hope, I declare that our sin is forgiven. May our mouths be filled with praise.



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

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Marlee Gillihan

Holy God, by the gift of your Spirit show us the truth that you desire and teach us wisdom in our hearts. Let us hear with joy and gladness the Word that you speak today; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Marlee Gillihan

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 14 (unison)

Fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.'
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is no one who does good.
The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind
to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.

They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the Lord?

There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!

When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,

Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

SECOND LESSON: I Timothy 1:12-17

This is the Word of the Lord!

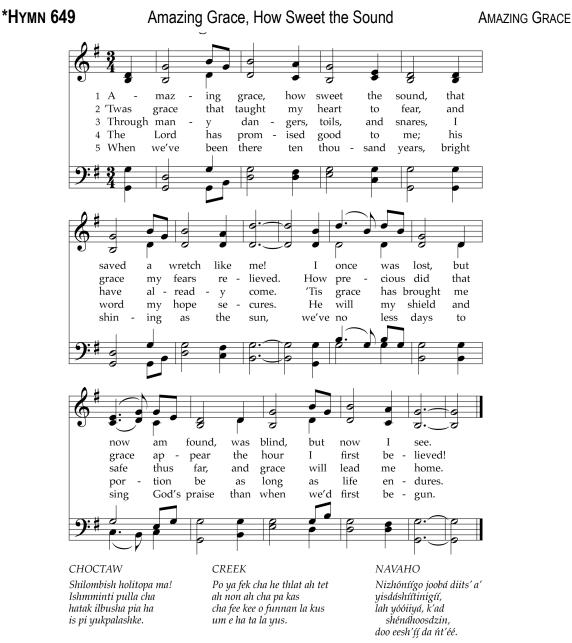
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Redeeming Regret"

Rev. John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD



As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH (unison)

Jesus felt forsaken by God and thus experienced hell itself for us. Yet the Son was never more in accord with the Father's will. He was acting on behalf of God, manifesting the Father's love that takes on itself the loneliness, pain, and death that result from our waywardness. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not holding our sins against us. Each of us beholds on the cross the Savior who died in our place, so that we may no longer live for ourselves, but for him. In him is our only hope of salvation.

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 <u>mywpc.org/offering</u> 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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness Cooper Johnson, French horn arr. Dan Forrest

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father! There is no shadow of turning with thee! Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see!
All I have needed, thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

(Anthem continues on the next page.)

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow: Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Please stand and join with the choir in singing the final refrain below.





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 or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.





This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.



*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Allegro Walther

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 ◆

Today we celebrate Pastor John Morgan's forty years of faithful ministry. We offer an anthem on the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" as a testimony to God's enduring faithfulness to the church and its shepherds. We thank God for John's service and for providing "strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow" through his ministry.

The setting by Dan Forrest features a French horn, which Pastor John played when he was a student.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ←

The flowers are given today to the glory of God and in memory of their parents by Robin and Greg Sabo.

>> THOSE SERVING THIS MORNING ◆

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

Cooper Johnson, French horn

LITURGIST

Marlee Gillihan

GREETER

9:30am Anne Nordin, Bill Riffer

11:00am Gerry and Jackie Ward

USHERS

9:30am Penny Marshburn, Anne Nicastro, Nick Nicastro, Rebecca Caprio

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Penny Marshburn, Tom Moul, Rebecca Caprio

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Dave McLain, Abigail Knox, Roy Knox, Steve Young

*WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS

Godwin Jones, Sylvia Jones, Ellen Jones

*WINDSOR MEADE USHER

Ray Whitney and Peter Moriarty

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Jim Marshburn and John Schoenberger

^{*}Satellite campuses

> WPC Elders, Deacons & Staff ≪

*Moderator **Second Chair

SESSION: CLASSES OF 2026, 2027, 2028

Moderator: John E. Morgan Clerk of Session: Diane Schwarz Administration: Larry Pulley* (26), Margie Newcomer (26), Pat Murray (28)

Christian Education: JD Due* (26), Kelly Kirkpatrick (26), Kathryn Hall (27), Megan Davis (28), Len Shartzer (28)

Christian Outreach: CW Stacks* (28), Joseph Kinard (27), Carolyn Morgan (28)

Communications: Ellen Peters* (27)

Facilities: Jerry Howell* (26), Ric Cheston (27), Greg Walton (28)

Resources: Marc Moyers* (27), Jay Eaton (26)

Worship: Becky McKinley* (27) **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**:

Joseph Kinard* (26), Jim Austin (26), Martha Squire (27), Wray Russell (28) Mike Smith (28)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: CLASS OF 2025-26

Moderator: Ric Cheston, Kathy Chamber, Jim Kirkpatrick, Karen Lee, Carolyn Morgan, Nancy Moseley,

Jim Winthrop

BOARD OF DEACONS: CLASSES OF 2026, 2027, 2028

Moderator: Eric Beckhusen (26) Vice-Moderator: Julia Smith (27)

Pastoral Advisor: Pam Hrncir, Associate Pastor

Secretary: Robin Sabo (26)

CARE TEAMS

Care Connections: Jennifer LaDow** (26), Skip Perry (28), Patty Yewcic (28)

Brookdale and Other Asst. Living: Robin Sabo (26)

Patriot's Colony: Barbara Smith** (28)

Williamsburg Landing: Carolyn Lodzieski** (26)

Windsor Meade: Martha Burian** (26), Jack Snell (28)

MINISTRY TEAMS

Celebrations and Concerns: Laura Osman** (27), Barb Timko (28)

Christian Fellowship: Bev Whitley** (27), Dave McLain (26) Jim Carey** (27), Jane Snyder (28), Steve Young (28)

Flower Sharing: Leigh Sutherland** (26), Carol Thomas (26), Linda Stewart (28)

New Member: Eric Beckhusen** (26), Rodney Lawrence (27), Suzanne Stewart (27)

Memorial Receptions: Rebecca Caprio** (26), Karen Lauritzen (27), Julia Smith (27), Cheryl Roettger (28)

Memorial Services: Ford Moseley** (27), Jack Lassiter (27), Kathy Chambers (27), Bruce Graham (28)

STAFF

Pastoral Staff: John E. Morgan, Pastor/Head of Staff; Pam Hrncir, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care Program Staff: Melody Dillon, Director of Children Youth, and Family Ministries, Caroline Johnston, Director of Colligate Ministries.

Music Staff: Chris Bechtler, Director of Music; Norman Elton, Organist, Assistant Director of Music;

Rebecca Elton, Junior Carol Choir Director

Administrative Staff: Stephen Foster, Director of Finance and Administration; Vanessa Gamble, Church Secretary;

Martha Reier, Administrative Assistant; Sherry Volk, Director of Communications; Barbara Walker, Accounting Assistant

Facility Staff: Elbert Fleming, Facility Manager; Hugh Jamerson, Sexton

Audio Booth: John Schoenberger, Technician

≈ 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. Sharing Faith with Childrens returns to our 11am service. 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!

> T-LOOP ENABLED ≪



Did you know you can receive amplified sound in the Sanctuary with a t-loop enabled hearing aid? The "loop" signal is strongest in certain pews along the center aisle. Look for the blue symbol pictured here.

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.
- •The monthly grief support group resumes meeting the first Wednesday of the month, at 10am in room 227 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.
- •Caregivers Support Group will resume their weekly meetings on Mondays at 1:00pm in room 227 on the second level.

>> 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.

Pastor-on-Call

Sunday, September 14 – Saturday, September 20 Pastor John • jmorgan@mywpc.org • 757-903-7800

Please pray for:

• Terry Hancock, Nell Stowe, and families who have recently lost loved ones.

Please pray for those:

• Families who have recently lost loved ones, recovering from various surgeries, who are homebound, who have family and friend concerns, affected by natural disasters, country in the military services and their families, serving our country in leadership roles, experiencing homelessness and hunger, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, and Ukraine.

➢ ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

- Thanking God for Pastor John's 40 Years of Ministry! Join us TODAY, immediately after the 11:00am worship service in Stevenson Hall, as we celebrate Pastor John's faithful service to God and God's people over the past 40 years.
 - As part of our celebration, we will take a collection to make a donation to FISH in Pastor John's honor. Pastor John faithfully volunteers with FISH the first Wednesday of the month.
 - A basket will also be available for cards and personal notes of thanks. Come share in this joyful occasion as we give thanks to God for Pastor John's ministry among us!
- Fall Coffee Fellowship, Usher and Greeter Sign Ups Begin Today in Stevenson Hall! Have you been looking for an opportunity to share your smile and meet new people on Sunday mornings? Please stop by the tables in Stevenson Hall between services today through September 28th to learn more and sign up to host Coffee Fellowship, Usher or Greet during the months of September, October, and November. Deacons, Ushers, and Greeters will be available to answer your questions. No previous experience necessary and all ages are welcome! Feel free to sign up online from the comfort of your home by going to https://signup.com/go/iGCDndF to serve as a greeter/usher and https://signup.com/go/yOsEWmJ to host coffee fellowship.
- Flower Sharing Ministry: Deacon Linda Stewart, member of the Flower Sharing Ministry, will also be available in Stevenson Hall to share information and answer any questions about the ministry. Each week, with the donor's permission, volunteers create smaller arrangements from the sanctuary flowers and deliver them to members who are ill, homebound, or grieving. It's a simple yet powerful way to spread kindness and show care—bringing beauty, comfort, and a smile when it's needed most. If sharing "love in a vase" sounds like your kind of ministry, see Linda to learn more and sign up!
- The first Kids Connect Day Camp of the year is on Friday, October 3! When our public school teachers have scheduled work days, all kids in Kindergarten-5th grade are invited to spend the day at WPC playing games, doing crafts, learning a Bible story, doing a service project, and much more. For this first Kids Connect of the year, there will even be a special visitor from the Virginia Zoo! Registration can be found at mywpc.org/children or by emailing Melody Dillon at mdillon@mywpc.org. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per child (or \$40 per family).
- Now that a new school year has begun, we have completed the Summer Meals for Kids Program for another year. Thank you to all the wonderful congregants who dedicated their time and energy helping children by participating in the 2025 Summer Meals for Kids program. The volunteering of your time and the giving of food contributions and money spread love and kindness each week to 268 children in our community. Your selfless acts of service and your generosity truly made a difference in the lives of those around you. You are appreciated and valued more than words can express.
- Be a part of World Communion Sunday. The Worship Ministry invites you to participate by baking bread that represents your heritage or that is a family favorite. The breads will be assembled into a centerpiece for October 5. If you have questions or want to volunteer to provide bread, please contact Ruth Cobb*by September 29.

- Register now for the WPC Ice Cream Social: Sunday, September 21, 2pm. Ice cream is for everyone! Drop in for yummy scoops of ice cream (including a non-dairy sorbet) with toppings, and enjoy time in fellowship with old friends and new acquaintances. We will be set up with tents and seating in the small parking lot next to the playground at the rear of the building. There is no charge for the event, but please register by Thursday, September 18, so we can plan for all. See mywpc.org/calendar or sign up in the back Welcome Lobby. Contact Bev Whitley* with any questions.
- Prayer Chain: Have you ever thought that you wanted to get more involved with the church but felt that you just didn't have the time? Joining the prayer chain is the perfect solution. The process is simple: You will receive an e-mail every week listing the names of people who need prayers. You pray for those people as often and for as long as the Lord directs. That's it.

There is only one request. The names of the persons on the prayer chain are to be kept confidential, shared by you with God.

If this is something you'd like to do, please send an e-mail to Jo Ann Youhas* with your name, phone number, and e-mail address and she will add your name to the distribution list.

We welcome you into this important ministry of our church. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Jo Ann Youhas* Thank you.

- The WPC Book Club will meet on Monday, September 23, 2025, at 2 pm in Room 220 (and on Zoom) to discuss The Covenant of Water, by Abraham Verghese.
- Rise Against Hunger Sign Up Today! Join us for WPC's annual meal-packaging event on Saturday, September 27 in Stevenson Hall. Our 2025 goals are big: 55,000 meals packaged (bringing WPC's lifetime total to 600,000!) and \$10,000 raised to cover costs. This intergenerational event is a WPC favorite. Sign up for a two-hour shift or make a donation at mywpc.org/rah. Questions? Contact Wray Russell*.

→ ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE ◆

Vanessa Gamble, our Church Secretary, will be away from Monday, September 1 through Friday, September 12, 2025. If you need assistance, please reach out to Martha Reier (mreier@mywpc.org) or contact the Church Office.

Sherry Volk, our Director of Communications will be away from Monday, September 8 through Sunday, September 14.

*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 ◆ S

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:30am ONLY Nursery open during 9:30am worship service

9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access

11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Listen at FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com

12:00pm Pastor John's 40 Years of Ministry Celebration / Stevenson Hall

5:30pm Youth Group / Stevenson Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

1:00pm Caregiver Support Grp / Rm 227

6:30pm Williamsburg Choral Guild Rehearsal / Sanctuary

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

11:30am Communications Mtg / Rm 220

1:00pm Staff Mtg / Zoom

6:30pm UKirk Dinner & Dialogue / UKirk Rm Lower Level 7:00pm Roundtable Pulpit with Pastor John / Library

7:00pm Christian Fellowship Mtg / Rm 220

7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

6:00pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm 6:30pm Facilities Ministry Mtg / Stevenson Hall 7:00pm Administration Ministry Mtg / Rm 220 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning

4:30pm Carol Choir and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

5:00pm Christian Outreach Mtg / LL010

7:30pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Ring

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

>> NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ◆

September 21, 2025 • 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor John's sermon, "Pray for Everyone," will be based on I Timothy 2:1-7.