

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
James Frederick, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
James Fowler, Seminary Intern

April 9, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday

*Enter Reverently, Meditate Quietly, Worship Devoutly,
Leave Gratefully, Serve Christ Faithfully*

PRELUDE

INTROIT

I Was Glad

Barnett

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed are those who delight in worship.
Blessed are the ones who come in God's name.

**People: Give thanks to God, all who assemble here.
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Let all who follow Christ sing God's praise.
Because of God's help, we are not disgraced.

**People: Open the gates of righteousness that we might enter.
The words of God are marvelous in our eyes.**

Leader: This is the day that our God has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**People: Hosanna! Let every knee bend before Jesus!
Let every tongue welcome Christ's reign! Hosanna!**

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: This is your day, holy God. Every day belongs to you. We would empty ourselves before you so there will be room for your entrance into our minds and hearts. Our times are in your hands. This precious gift of life is ours, in trust, from you. We give thanks, for your steadfast love endures forever. That love, expressed in the life of Jesus, dared to challenge those centers of power that lived by other stan-

**dards. We come to declare that love today. Reign among us, we pray.
Amen.**

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#88

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Will we wave our leafy branches today and hide them tomorrow? Will our hosannas melt into another chorus of death? Will we, like the builders of old, reject the stone that is meant to hold all things together? Is Jesus Christ truly the cornerstone of our lives? Let us admit the truth about ourselves. Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

All: Sovereign God, we confess that we are as fickle as the crowds in Jerusalem. When everything seems to be going well, we join the hosanna chorus, but in times of weariness or rebellion, praise can turn to apathy. We hide our faith when it is under attack and link ourselves with the scoffers. When there is opportunity to speak a good word for Jesus Christ, we are silent. Often the word we lift to the world is uncertain, even hesitant. We need your forgiving love today, O God, more than ever. Hear our prayer! Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#100

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God answers us and offers salvation. In the mystery of God, One came among us, fully human yet fully divine, to lead us to the throne of grace. Though in the form of God, Jesus emptied himself, taking a slave's role in humble service to humanity. This was for our sakes, that we might bend our knees before God in humility and trust. We are saved in God's steadfast love! Believe the good news of the Gospel;

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI (kids' pink page)

#579

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace!

*HYMN *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* #89

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Pages 565-566

(Martin Anim-Danso)

Mark 11:1-11 Page 47

(Ramon Basie)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC *Total Praise* Smallwood

SERMON *The Jesus You DON'T Want to Know* Rev. Muriel Burrows

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (kids' orange page)

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
and put your trust in the Lord.*

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: What you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes, gracious God. Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining! We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our humble service. Amen.

*HYMN *The Palms* (insert)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Were You There?* Maria Potts
Dancer

* Congregation stands

** Latecomers ushered in

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME - The Pastor, Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon welcome most warmly all worshipers. Our fellowship is enriched by your presence. If you do not have a church home of your own, we do sincerely invite you to be a part of our fellowship. Please contact the church office for further information if you are interested in church membership (609) 924-1666.

ATTENDANCE at the service of April 2 was 125.



SUNDAY SCHOOL WEEKLY FOR ALL AGE GROUPS! Sunday school classes for adults and students in grades 5-12 begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. (The adult class is exploring the lectionary passages together each week before the service.) Students in grades 1-4 will be dismissed for their Sunday school class immediately after the children's message. (A nursery is available for children in preschool and kindergarten.)

NURSERY CARE is provided for children 0-5 during Sunday school (9:00) and worship (10:00). Today Pam Johnson is assisting with nursery care.



FLOWERS – Flowers for today's service were given by *Paul and Janet Dickerson Stephens* in memory of her parents, *Timothy and Artisse M. Smith*. If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or simply to beautify the church, please sign up on the chart located on the door of the sound room (left-hand entrance from the sanctuary to the parish house). After worship service, the donor may take the flowers home. At present, it is the responsibility of the person giving the flowers to make his/her own arrangements for preparation and delivery of the flowers for the Chancel. The next available date is April 23.

USHERS for this morning's service are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Jessyca Hart and Jillian Ojeda with Jawhar Kimbrough, manager. Next week's ushers are Robert Ellis and Curtis Johnson.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of April is Valerie Smith. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Valerie (609-799-1817).

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, April 16, is Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18.



FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting **foods for Easter, canned fruit, vegetables and juice** for the Crisis Ministry. *****NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.***** Other nourishing food will also be accepted. Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering plate or given to a deacon. Please consider an extra purchase during your next grocery shopping trip and place items in the wooden box in the Narthex.



DEEPEST SYMPATHY – The Witherspoon family expresses its deepest sympathy to **Rev. Burrows**, her sister, Winnie, and their family. Winnie’s son, Jason, passed away on Tuesday in South Africa from an asthma attack. (Winnie and Jason visited Rev. Burrows earlier this year.)



EASTER EGG HUNT – Members of the Junior Usher Ministry will host an Easter Egg Hunt for the children after church **next Sunday**. Eggs will be hidden in Ms. Reeves’ backyard (behind the church building). JUM members will guide the children through the process.

After the egg hunt they will be told about the symbol of the egg and will be given an egg with a multi-colored bracelet; each color represents a symbol of Easter.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS – Those who want to become members of, affiliate with, or learn more about Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church are invited to a **New Members Class** at the manse (453 Walnut Lane) **next Friday, April 21**, at 7:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided for those who confirm their plans to attend. Contact Rev. Burrows for details (609-924-1666 or mburr45@verizon.net).



COUNTERS DESPERATELY NEEDED!!! – At least four people are needed to join our counting teams. Even if you are unable to count every Sunday during a designated month, you can still sign up to count on the Sundays you are available. Training provided. Please see Ron Smith or leave a message in the church office.



PROPERTY ACQUISITION FUND UPDATE

As of April 2, the Property Acquisition Fund has accumulated **\$83,961.18** in cash, out of a total \$110,000 we have committed to raise.



SPECIAL EDITION NOTE CARDS and a poster featuring the 250th Anniversary logo are available for sale beginning today. These top quality items are designed as lasting mementos of this special year in the life of our church(es). Copies are on display in the Fellowship Hall.



BIBLE AND BAGELS – Come for bagels, coffee, and juice on **Sunday, April 23**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and hear Dr. Peter Paris discuss

Contemporary Challenges Confronting the Churches

The so-called right-wing Christian movement as symbolized by the tele-evangelist media and led by both white and black leaders, is the impetus for the birth of many mega-churches and their so-called “prosperity gospel.” The economic triumphalism of those churches overshadows all prophetic voices that address the three great evils that Martin Luther King, Jr., identified: poverty, racism and militarism. These evils could be augmented today by the following: discrimination against women, homophobia, the left-behind children in our cities, the disproportionate number of blacks and other minorities in prison and on death row; the birth of a permanent underclass here in America. Many white and black churches have been swept up in the euphoria of this new synthesis of evangelical Christianity, nationalism, and the global market.

On **Sunday, April 30**, at 9:00 a.m., Dr. Elsie McKee will discuss

Congo Calling! Congo Calling!

Where is Congo these days? Not on our world events radar, certainly. But it is/should be on our church radar. The Democratic Republic of Congo – with which American Presbyterians have been associated since 1891 when an African-American and a Caucasian-American jointly began mission work in the Kasai province – is now counted as the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world. Hundreds of thousands, even millions more have died in Congo than in the tsunami or in Darfur. In fact, there have been more conflict-related deaths in Congo since 1998 than in any other conflict since World War II. And civilians – women and children – are a huge majority of the casualties. Come find out:

- *More about the way American Presbyterians have served the church and fought for justice in Congo*
 - *More about the present horrific situation*
 - *More about what we can do – with some easy ways to participate*
- Tuasakidila wa bungi!*