

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Cecelia B. Hodges, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
David Shedden, Seminary Intern

October 22, 2006

10:00 a.m.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

A Wise Man

Young Voices
of Faith

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: The Lord our God is very good.
God is clothed with honor and majesty.

People: Our God is wrapped in light as with a garment.

Leader: God has stretched out the heavens like a tent
and made the clouds his chariot.

**People: God had made the winds his messengers;
God uses fire and flame as his ministers.**

Leader: In wisdom God has made all things. The earth is God's creation.

**People: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live,
I will rejoice in my God as long as I have being.**

Leader: Bless the name of the Lord
and call upon him in praise and thanksgiving.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**All: Gracious and all powerful God, we open our hearts and our minds to
you that you may enter in. Bless us in this time of worship with your
holy presence. Help us let go of all anxiety and worry. Support us**

with your loving arms and help us to lift up our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Pour out your spirit upon us that we might love you more purely and be able to bring your grace and your compassion, your power and your truth, and your joy and your peace to our suffering world. We ask it in and through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

#465

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus said to his disciples and says to us that lording it over others is unacceptable and that “...*whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be the slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.*”

Jesus, Friend and Savior, we confess that all too often we find pleasure in lording it over others – even here in church – and we need to hear you speak these words about the true meaning of greatness directly to us. Unclog our ears and tenderize our hearts so that your words enliven our discipleship so that we put the needs of others before our own needs;

All: so that we share what we have rather than hoarding it for ourselves; and use our gifts to benefit others rather than increasing our own status and position.

**** Pause for silent reflection ****

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, keep reminding us that following you means emptying ourselves of all self-serving power and filling ourselves with the desire to serve others as willingly as you did.

All: Forgive any reluctance on our part of follow your example; replace any selfish power-plays of ours with your inclusive love, your compassion and your humility. These prayers we offer in your name and for your sake. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#322

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: “*The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many*” (Mark 10:45). And so “*he became the source of eter-*

nal salvation for all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:9b). The good news, therefore, is this:

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!

MOMENT FOR MISSION Stewardship Edwina Hawes

*HYMN *What Does the Lord Require* #405

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 53:4-12 Pages 683-684
Mark 10:35-45 Page 47

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(Students in grades 1-12 are dismissed for their Bible classes.**)**

SPECIAL MUSIC *I Am His Child* Young Voices of Faith

SERMON *Three Poison Pills – Position, Prestige and Power* 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: Lord Jesus – as you gave yourself for us – so we would give ourselves for you and for your work in this world. Receive these offerings from our hands and bless them in your service, and take too, O Lord, all the intentions of our hearts and our minds and bring them to flower in our church, our community, and our world. Amen.

*HYMN *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* #367

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Thy Will, Thy Way

Fryson

- * 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGE GROUPS! Adults will meet on their own schedule each month in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. All other Sunday school classes for students in grades 1-12 begin immediately after the children’s message in morning worship. (A nursery is available for children in preschool and kindergarten.)

NURSERY CARE is provided for children 0-5 beginning at 9:45 a.m. Today Melissa Moore is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday’s nursery care will be assisted by Anne Blackwood-Chirchir.

FLOWERS - 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 October 29.

USHERS for this morning’s service are Pauline Brown and Chester Holland. Next week’s ushers are Beverly Owens and Adrienne Daniels Paris.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning’s worship service. Host for the month of November is Florence Sharpless. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Florence (609-924-2071).

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, October 29, is Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52.

ATTENDANCE at the service of October 15 was 125.



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK – MARK 10:35-45

- ✠ Where do you want to sit? This week's readings are a fertile field for preaching about ethics and power. *The brothers requested positions of honor and power -- for what purpose?*
- ✠ The importance of position and power, and how they are used, is one of those areas where the ways of the world where we live and do business clash with the ethics of Christ. *What drives us to chase money, position, and power as we do? Do we also experience this drive in the world of the church?*
- ✠ Jesus made a clear statement on the subject. We are not called to sit on top of the heap (enjoying the benefits found there); we are rather called to serve from the lowest position. *Shepherd, CEO, or Servant Leader? Which model of leadership most effectively fits the needs of today's church? Perhaps, more important, which style of leadership would Jesus endorse?*
- ✠ *In the issue of status, rank and privilege why does Jesus attribute so much importance to the emptying of oneself?*
- ✠ Jesus told the disciples that the way to rank first is by serving others. *What does unselfish service look like in your church, work, or home? On a larger scale how could it change the world?*



FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting nourishing food for the Crisis Ministry. *****NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.***** 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.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK WEEK – Our Habitat for Humanity project needs your help. To participate, please contact Meg Coghlan (609-651-2945 or meg_coghlan@yahoo.com).



WINTER SPOONER DEADLINE – The deadline for the winter edition of *The Spooner* newsletter is **Sunday, November 12**. Committee chairs and leaders of various church groups, as well as other individuals with news of special interest are encouraged to submit articles to share with our readers.



CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – A *Congregational Meeting* will immediately follow the service **today**. This meeting has been called for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons for 2007. **Everyone** is urged to attend.



NOONTIME RECITAL SERIES RESUMES – You are invited to the *Noontime Recital Series* next Wednesday, **November 1**, at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary. This recital is free and will feature *Trio Pasional* (www.triopasional.com). A light lunch will follow. Flyers are available in the narthex for you to share with your family, friends and acquaintances.



REFUGEE NEEDS – Two Eritrean brothers fleeing from the war and persecution in their homeland have been granted asylum in the U.S., but they need help getting settled. If anyone can provide any of the following items it would be most welcome.

For more information contact Elsie McKee (609-683-5157 or elsie.mckee@ptsem.edu). Thank you!

- two beds
- one sofa
- one kitchen table
- two kitchen chairs
- two dressers
- one alarm clock
- one radio
- two sheet sets
- two blankets
- two pillows
- paper towels
- dish cloths
- dish towels
- kitchen set for two (plates, bowls, silverware, cups, glasses, utensils, pots, pans)
- bath towels
- wash cloths
- mop
- broom
- dust pan
- bucket
- bleach
- dish detergent
- laundry detergent
- soap
- shampoo
- deodorant
- two men’s medium coats



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m.
Next Sunday, October 29
 Enjoy your extra hour of sleep!