

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

November 5, 2006

10:00 a.m.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

More Love to Thee

Traditional

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CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 146:1, 5-10 NRSV)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Leader: Happy are those whose help is in God, creator of heaven and earth, who is forever faithful;

People: Seeking justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;

Leader: Setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the blind;

People: Lifting up those who are bowed down and loving the righteous.

Leader: The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan and widow;

People: But the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

Leader: The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: We praise you, O God, for being not only the God of history but the God of our story. You have gathered us here today to remind us that although you are the one to whom all power belongs, yet you care for the weak and powerless. You care for us. We praise you for joining your story to ours in such a special way through Jesus, our Lord. He proved his great love for you and for each person in the way he lived – releasing what was captive, lifting up the burdened, empowering the powerless. God, source of loving kindness and strength, we worship you. Jesus, foundation of our faith, we worship you. Holy Spirit, ground of our very being, we worship you. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#376

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus said that the first commandment was this: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.”* The second commandment is this: *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”* We hear what you are saying to us, Lord, but it is not easy in today’s society. Worshipping position and status, power and wealth seem to be the first commandments of life these days, and when we are so busy achieving these it doesn’t leave much time to care for, let alone love, our neighbor.

People: Help us to re-order our priorities, Lord, so that they are more in tune with yours.

Leader: A short silence to reflect on these words: Jesus, Savior and Lord, we confess that there are times when the pattern of our daily lives is modeled on other than worshipping God and caring for neighbors. All we seem to be creating is a feel-good, self-serving approach to life rather than your costly, self-emptying, servant-hood lifestyle;

People: Lord, reconnect us to the desire to live out your commandments of love.

Leader: A short silence to reflect on these words: Jesus, Redeemer and Friend, your acts of caring and love, mercy and justice delivered people from lives dominated by injustice and corruption. We confess that when “economic rationalism” rules the lives of people today, competition replaces compassion, ruthlessness replaces forgiveness, and wounding replaces healing. Yet, in the midst of all this you command us not only to love God wholeheartedly, and to love our neighbor likewise, you command us also to love one another as you love us.

People: Lord, stir us into action so that the signs of your powerful love are visible in and through us. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#426

**O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o’erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.**

**O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.**

COMMUNION LITANY

- Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love. You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. You breathe life into us and set us among all your creatures, in a covenant of love and service. Even when we turn from you, you do not forsake us. You send your prophets to proclaim your justice, to remind us of your promise of peace, and to call us back to you.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we praise you for your love revealed to us in Jesus and by Jesus, who walks with us, our Wisdom and our Way, sharing our joy and sorrow, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, raising the dead, and setting the captives free.

Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth we recognize the fullness of your grace – the breadth and depth of your love – the transforming power of your living word.

And so it is today that we set this table before you – and remember how on the night of his betrayal – the eve of his death, that when Jesus ate with his disciples – with those he called his friends – he took bread, and after blessing it – as we now bless this bread – the fruit of your earth, O God, he broke it and gave it to them saying, *“Take, eat, this is my body, given for you.”* And we remember too, Jesus took the cup, the cup of blessing, and after giving thanks – as we thank you now, O God, for this cup that you give – he passed it to his friends saying, *“Take and drink, this is my blood, poured out for you, a new covenant for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you do this, do it in remembrance of me.”*

PROCLAMATION OF FAITH, INVOCATION OF THE SPIRIT

- Leader: Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ’s life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may offer ourselves to you and that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith.
- People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**
- Leader: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts that all who share in the loaf and this cup may be the body of Christ: light, life and love in the world. In his hope, and as your people, we praise you.
- People: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.**
- Leader: We praise and adore you and lay our lives before you – in the name of the one who taught us to pray to you as one. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Leader: All are welcome at the Lord’s table. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

HYMNS *Become to Us the Living Bread* #500
I Come with Joy #507

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray:
People: Life-giving God, may we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring new life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Leader: Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us.
People: Draw us ever closer to the fullness of your kingdom; and so fill us with love for one another and for the world that the whole earth will come to praise your most holy name. Amen.

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

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Now unto Him* Morris

* 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.)

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 November 12.

USHERS for this morning's service are Gerald Delk and James Mack. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Jonathan Colbert and Ryan Velez with Andrew Ojeda, manager.

COMMUNION SERVERS for this morning are Pamela Espenshade, Bernadine Hines, James Mack and Elizabeth Zingg.



COFFEE HOUR – *Please join us in congratulating Mildred and Garfield Poncé who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Friday, November 3. Their family, Pamela, Curtis, Cameron, Chase and Corinne Johnson, invites you to Coffee Hour for cake following today's 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).

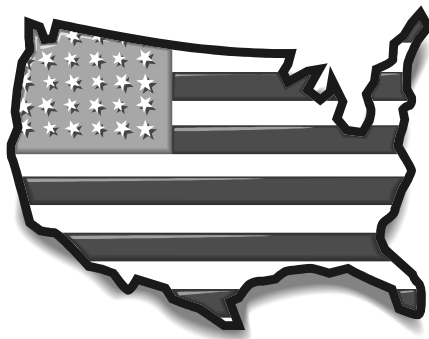
ATTENDANCE at the service of October 29 was 106.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, November 12, is Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS **COUNTERS FOR NOVEMBER** are Adrienne Daniels Paris (Team Leader), Vicki Meisel, Maria Potts and Florence Sharpless. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Valerie Smith, Alyce Bush and Sam McGriff.



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).



WHITHER AMERICA? asks Dr. Paul Krugman, New York Times columnist and professor of economics at Princeton University. Dr. Krugman will talk about disturbing trends in U.S. economics and society at 6:00 p.m. **TODAY** in the Friend Center Convocation Room (William and Olden), Princeton University campus. This event is sponsored by WSPC to raise funds for the Robeson House. Cost is \$45. Tickets are available from Rev. Burrows.



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 Member Class* at the manse (453 Walnut Lane) **this Saturday, November 11**, at 9:00 a.m. Pastry and coffee will be provided for those who confirm their plans to attend. Contact Rev. Burrows for details (609-924-1666 or mburr45@verizon.net).



THERE ARE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, for grades 1-12. The middle school and high school classes are leading worship. We want all our children to see and appreciate the leadership that their peers are providing on that day for the whole congregation’s worship. That should encourage younger children to know that one day they can lead worship too.



BRING A FRIEND TO WSPC! – The Deacon Board is asking all members to bring their friends to church during the month of November. It will be a time to showcase and share all the wonderful gifts our church has to offer, especially for those that don’t attend a church – maybe they’ll choose Witherspoon. For more information, contact Deacon Michelle Peal (908-369-4753).



WINTER SPOONER DEADLINE – The deadline for the winter edition of *The Spooner* newsletter is **next 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.



CALLING ALL MEN! – The WSPC Men’s Association will host a breakfast meeting with men of Nassau Church **next Friday, November 17**, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 a.m. Terry McEwen, Director of the Division of Banking for the State on New Jersey, will speak about his experiences in the banking industry and regulatory trends that could be resources for development of Robeson House. The meeting

will adjourn by 9:00 a.m. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.



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.

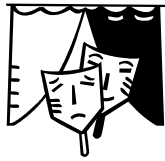


READINGS OVER COFFEE – The Princeton Public Library invites everyone to its monthly *Readings Over Coffee* **this Wednesday, November 8**, at 10:30 a.m. Cecelia B. Hodges will present a one-woman show, *Unbought and Unbossed*, on the life and times of Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. This event, which will take

place in the Community Room at the library, is free and open to the public; no reservations are necessary. For more information, call 609-924-9529.



SHARING MEMORIES OF LIFE ON JOHN STREET – Next Sunday, November 12, at 3:00 p.m., Princeton Public Library will sponsor a program on sharing the memories of John Street. They invite those people who have a sense of the importance of the history of John Street to the Witherspoon community to come out and participate. This program is the final in a series of three programs. The program will take place on the second floor of the library. Penney Edwards-Carter and Terri Nelson will lead the discussion. For more information, call 609-924-9529.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT MCCARTER – Janet Giles from Nassau Presbyterian Church has been given half price tickets for the performance of *A Christmas Carol* at McCarter Theatre on **Thursday, December 7**, at 7:30 p.m. Call Janet (908-359-0801) for details.



CHURCH VAN DRIVER NEEDED FOR TRENTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS – On Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., a driver is needed to pick up a van at Nassau Presbyterian Church. An adult chaperone will accompany the driver to Trenton elementary and middle schools to pick up choristers, deliver them to First Presbyterian Church in Trenton and return the van to Nassau Church. Driver will be paid \$35 per session. If you can help, please call B. J. Katen-Narvell (609-921-8948).



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 kitchen table
- Two dressers
- One radio
- Two blankets
- Dish cloths
- Wash cloths
- Paper towels
- Broom
- Bucket
- Dish detergent
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Kitchen set for two (plates, bowls, silverware, cups, glasses, utensils, pots, pans)
- One sofa
- Two kitchen chairs
- One alarm clock
- Two sets of sheets
- Two pillows
- Dish towels
- Bath towels
- Mop
- Dust pan
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo
- Two men's medium coats