

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education

David Shedden, Seminary Intern

Ronald Smith, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director

Amy Shortt, Interim Organist

Cecelia B. Hodges, Verse Speaking Choir Director

January 21, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Ave Verum Corpus

Mozart

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WORDS OF WELCOME AND 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: We do not live by bread alone.

We live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

People: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

Leader: Blessed are they whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.

People: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Leader: The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.
That if you confess with your mouth, *Jesus is Lord*,
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

**People: It is with our hearts that we believe and are justified,
and it is with our mouth that we confess and are saved.**

Leader: The word has become flesh and dwells among us,
full of grace and truth.

All: Praise be to God, forever and ever. Amen!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

**All: We come, O God of joy and peace, to praise you and worship you and
to hear your Word afresh for our lives. Lord, pour out your Spirit**

upon us that our worship may be more than words, more than mere duty, but that it may be alive with your power and link us to you and you to us in deep embrace. Break open the Scriptures that we read so that Your Way may be known again to us – fresh and new as when we first heard it. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.

**

*OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

#138

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: As Ezra reminded the returning exiles of their identity as the people of God, they were deeply moved and wept, because they had forgotten about the mighty acts of God which had shaped them and their history.

People: We confess, O God, that we also forget our identity as your people and so fail to witness to your activity in our lives.

Leader: Ezra called on the people not to grieve their shortcomings but to celebrate their calling and their strength as the people of God.

People: We confess that there are times when we concentrate on our weaknesses rather than rejoicing over our strengths.

Leader: Jesus also reminded the people of his day of their responsibilities as the people of God and then told them: *Today the scriptures have been fulfilled in your hearing.*

People: Today can be a confronting word when we tend to postpone until tomorrow what Jesus may be calling us to do today.

Leader: Jesus makes it very clear what his purpose is, as he spells out and then radically reveals in his life and death the true meaning of loving one's neighbor. Merciful God, anoint us with your Spirit so that the words of Scripture proclaimed by Jesus are heard by us – today – and acted upon by us – today – and fulfilled through our worship, witness and service – today – and in all the days that lie ahead. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#321

**Holy Spirit, truth divine,
Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light,
Wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

**Holy Spirit, love divine,
Glow within this heart of mine;
Kindle every high desire;
Perish self in Thy pure fire.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Anointed with the Holy Spirit, Jesus brings us the good news of salvation – that we are released from the oppression of all our sins. And so I declare to you: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: **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!

READING *I Have a Dream: Quotations of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Verse Speaking Choir*

*HYMN *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* #417

SCRIPTURE LESSON Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Pages 436-437
Luke 4:14-21 Page 61

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *Thank You, God* Lantz

SERMON *If the Scroll Fits, Live It* 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: **Gracious and generous God, we have much to be thankful for – our faith, our freedom to worship you, our families and friends. Help us never to take these for granted. Most of all, help us never to take for granted your great love, given to us in Jesus Christ and binding us together as his body. We pray that you will receive and bless these gifts as expressions of our gratitude and love. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

#29

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

In Me

Tindley

* Congregation stands

** Latecomers ushered in

❖ Participating with the Verse Speaking Choir today will be Benjamin Colbert, Kalyet Blackwood-Chirchir, Kaylin Blount, Diamond Holland, Jawhar Kimbrough, Rachel Maddox, Sianna Peal, Brian Yuan and the Chancel Choir.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME - The Pastor, Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon welcome most warmly all worshippers. 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 or witherspoon@verizon.net).



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 Pam Johnson is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Elizabeth Ferguson.

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 January 28.

USHERS for this morning's service are Pamela Espenshade and Michele Minter. Next week's ushers are Pauline Brown and Joan Tomlin.



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK – Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21

† What do you learn about the importance of public Bible reading from the Old Testament and gospel lections for this week?

- ✠ In Luke 4:14-21, Christ declared what he intended to do in ministry: bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, and so on. How does the ministry (mission) statement of your church line up with what Christ declared that he came to do?
- ✠ The year of the Lord's favor in Jesus' declaration is thought to be a reference to the Year of Jubilee decreed by Old Testament law. Draw parallels between the Year of Jubilee described in Old Testament law (Leviticus 25) and what Jesus said he would do. If Jubilee were to be declared in our times, what would it look like?

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, January 28, is Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30.



2007 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – The *Annual Congregational Meeting* will immediately follow the service **next Sunday, January 28**. Everyone is urged to attend. ***Please note*** that all committee chairs and group leaders should have already submitted their reports for the annual meeting to the church office. If your report has been delayed, **it must be submitted today** to allow adequate time to prepare annual reports for distribution.

**LÓÓK
at THIS!**

ATTENTION ALL ELDERS WHO SERVE THE CHURCH AT PRESBYTERY, SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY – please tell the church secretary (witherspoon@verizon.net or 609-924-1666) the office and capacity in which you serve as soon as possible so this information can be included in the Annual Congregational Report.



NASSAU AT SIX VESPER SERVICE WITH DINNER – Members and friends of the Witherspoon are invited to attend a Vesper Service at Nassau Presbyterian Church **today** starting at 6:00 p.m. This service will be in the form of scriptures and readings that are interspersed with hymns, spirituals and gospel songs played by Jerry Rife's Rhythm Kings Jazz Band. Witherspoon's Ben Colbert will serve as a liturgist along with Rev. David Davis.



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.



NOONTIME RECITAL SERIES – Come one, come all! Enjoy the music of Lin Wang, cellist, at the *Noontime Series* in the sanctuary on **Wednesday, February 7**, at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will follow. This recital is free, however donations are always welcome. Flyers will

soon be available in the narthex for you to share with your family, friends and acquaintances.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – On Super Bowl Sunday, **February 4**, our youth will hold pots at church doors. They will join young people in churches all across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2006, 11,000 groups from all 50 states and outside the U.S. participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring, generating over \$5 million. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Our church will donate the Souper Bowl collection to the Crisis Ministry. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring became a national grassroots event in 1993, more than \$33 million has gone to help those in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbor” by dropping your dollar in a soup pot on Souper Bowl Sunday.



Trenton Area

Habitat
for Humanity®

ATTENTION WSPC VOLUNTEERS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – The joint WSPC/Nassau Presbyterian Church project continues to need volunteers. It is not too late for you to support this important effort. There is a critical need for crew chiefs for the remaining Saturdays in January, February and early March. **CAN YOU PLEASE COMMIT OR RECOMMIT TO OUR PROJECT FOR THE FEW WEEKS LEFT? CONTACT MEG COGLAN (609-651-2945 OR 609-921-1050, x138) AND LET HER KNOW WHICH DAYS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP.** Volunteers who have not received Habitat T-shirts may contact Barbara Flythe (732-274-9435 or seavy33@aol.com).

Per Capita for 2007 is \$21.24 (per person).