

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
James Frederick, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Organist
Lydie Dews, Men's Chorus Director

April 29, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Give Praises to Our Lord

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CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Revelation 7:9-10, 15-17)

Leader: There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes, nations and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

People: *Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!*

Leader: They worship God day and night and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

People: **They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;**

Leader: The sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

People: **For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,**

Leader: And he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

All: *Let us worship the living, loving God!*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: **Lord God – we need you – we need you every hour of every day – we need your support – your love – your helping hand. We need, O God, your word to guide us – your Spirit to inspire us – your strength to hold us up. Be present with us at this hour of worship. Help us to bless your most holy name. Make us the people you want us to be. We ask it in the name of the risen one – Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

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*OPENING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

#142

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Leader: We praise you, O God, for giving shape and meaning to the ancient image of yourself as shepherd through the person of Jesus Christ. In him, your compassion has been eternally revealed, giving your rod and staff the human face of love. Through Jesus' persistence – even to death – in seeking and saving the lost, your goodness and mercy has been abundantly experienced. His ongoing life continues to guide and lead us in paths of righteousness. How can we do other than praise and adore you, O God, for such depth of care for us? How can we do other than listen to Jesus' voice as he calls us to follow him. And yet, we confess that there are times when we fail to hear and to obey his call because our lives are so filled with noise and self-centered activities. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we put our own comfort first and fail to reach out and accompany those who are going through difficult times – those who feel imprisoned in a valley of shadows and find themselves overwhelmed by life.

People: **Jesus, Good Shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.**

Leader: The call to reveal your love, compassion and comfort wherever you need us to bind up the wounds of victims of today's society. Forgive us, O God, for ignoring the plight of those deprived of the basic necessities of life – food and shelter.

People: **Jesus, Good Shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.**

Leader: The call to reveal in tangible and authentic ways, your passion for those who feel powerless to make any changes for good in their lives. Forgive us, O God, for enjoying the benefits of your goodness and mercy in our lives while exercising judgmental or unmerciful attitudes toward other people.

People: **Jesus, Good Shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.**

Leader: The call to empty ourselves of all that is contrary to your life within us so that your goodness and mercies are enjoyed not as rewards to be hoarded but as gifts to be shared. In your name, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#464

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

Words by Henry van Dyke. Music by Ludwig van Beethoven, adapt. Edward Hodges. CCLI# 498673

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. For we were going astray like sheep, but now we have been returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls (based on 1 Peter 2:24). So, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ we are sought, we are found, we are forgiven.

All: Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might, be to our God forever and ever! Amen. (Rev. 7:12)

*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 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* #387

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 10:22-30 Page 104

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Students in grades 1-6 are dismissed for their Bible classes.**)**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Rough Side of the Mountain* J. Paul Stephens
Soloist

SERMON *Re-inventing and Re-imaging* 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 *Jesus Is Real to Me* James Fowler
Soloist

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Jesus, Good Shepherd, we thank you for the ways in which you have enfolded us in your love and called us by name to follow you. May these gifts and our lives offered in your name, be used to enfold others in your love. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal

#447

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

I'll Go

Jaime Escarpeta
Soloist

* Congregation stands
** Latecomers ushered in

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. Sunday school classes for students in grades 1-6 begin immediately after the children's message during 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 Keaton and Jay Hill are assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Edwina Hawes.

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 May 20.

USHERS for this morning's service are Michele Minter and Beverly Owens. Next week's ushers are Joyce Abbott and Joan Tomlin.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of May is Barbara Brown. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Barbara (609-882-3788).

ATTENDANCE at the service of April 22 was 121.



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK – JOHN 10:22-30

(Questions on Sunday's readings for use by discussion groups, prayer groups, or for individual prayer.)

- ‡ Do you feel the need of a Good Shepherd at times? Can you say why?
- ‡ Do you always recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd?
- ‡ Are you comfortable that the Lord always has you in his hand, and that no one can take you out of it?
- ‡ What are some forces that try to take the sheep out of Jesus' hand? When will you be free from struggle?

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, May 6, is Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35.



CHURCH CALENDAR – A copy of the WSPC calendar for May is inserted in this bulletin. Please review it and contact the Church Office with any additions or corrections **by this Wednesday, May 2**. The updated calendar will be posted in the rear hallway.



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.



PAUL ROBESON LECTURE SERIES: TODAY – The final lecture in the Robeson lecture series, is scheduled for **today** at 3:00 p.m. at Liberation Hall, Princeton University's Carl Field Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding (86 Olden Street). This series, sponsored by WSPC and Nassau Presbyterian Churches Partners in Faith Committee, is intended to inform the WSPC congregation and Princeton community about the life and legacy of Paul Robeson as well as pay tribute to the memory of this great intellectual and activist in recognition of April as the month of his birth. The lecturer for this program is Giles R. Wright, Director of the Afro-American History Program, New Jersey Historical Commission. Please plan to attend this final lecture and support this effort to honor, remember, and learn more about this important American hero.



BIBLE AND BAGELS TO CONTINUE IN MAY – Many of you have requested small group adult Bible study. Come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. the first three Sundays in May (May 6, 13, 20). Louise will be there with a coffee pot and muffins. The Bible study will focus on *Flawed Families of the Bible – How God's Grace Works through Imperfect People*. Feel free to invite friends.



COME TO THE ANNUAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FORUM NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 6, after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Louise Johnson needs your input, insights and suggestions for making Witherspoon's CE programs the best they can be. Topics for discussion will be VBS, Sunday school planning for all ages, leader recruitment, small group Bible study for adults, and hopes and dreams for CE in general. Come and bring your ideas. Please fill out the survey inserted in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.



NOONTIME RECITAL SERIES – Come one, come all! Our *Noontime Recital Series* concludes for 2006-2007 **next Tuesday, May 8**. Beverly Owens, *soprano*, Amy Shortt, *piano*, and Esma Pasic-Filipovic, *piano*, will perform music composed by Florence Price. After the recital a light lunch will be served. We will continue to celebrate the life and

work of Florence Price with a lecture given by Price scholar Professor Rae Linda Brown from The University of California at Irvine. The lecture begins at 7:00 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public. Please join us as we celebrate the remarkable life and music of this outstanding African-American woman.

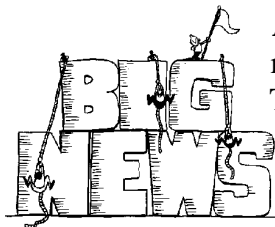


SUMMER SPOONER DEADLINE – Deadline for the summer issue of *The Spooner* newsletter is **Sunday, May 13**. Committee chairs and leaders of church groups, as well as other individuals with news of special interest, are encouraged to submit articles to share with our readers.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS **COUNTERS FOR MAY** are Adrienne Daniels Paris (Team Leader), Lucill Claassens, Vicki Meisel, and Maria Potts. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Joyce Abbott, Curtis Johnson and Maria Potts.



FAREWELL PARTY FOR THE BLOUNT FAMILY – The Church Life Committee is sponsoring a farewell party for the Blount family on **Thursday, May 24**, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Main Lounge at Princeton Theological Seminary Campus Center. Tickets (\$12 for adults, \$8 senior and children under twelve) are available from committee members. There will be food, fun and more. Come help us celebrate the Blounts!



ALBERT E. HINDS COMMUNITY PLAZA – We are delighted to report to you that Princeton Borough Council, at their meeting on Tuesday, April 24, designated the library plaza *Albert E. Hinds Community Plaza*. We want to express our sincere thanks to the congregation and friends for lending their support to this community effort!



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF PRINCETON invite all women to join them **this Friday, May 4**, at 12:00 p.m. for their *May Friendship Day* at All Saints Church (All Saints Road, Princeton). They will celebrate the fellowship of the least calling. A buffet lunch will be provided. For more information, please call Fannie Floyd (609-921-8429).



COALITION FOR PEACE ACTION is hosting a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall **next Sunday, May 6**, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. "Immigration" will be the topic for the evening. **Everyone** is invited.



BIRTHDAY OFFERING AND LUNCHEON – Presbyterian Women of Nassau Presbyterian Church invite all Witherspoon women to the Birthday Offering Worship Service in Niles Chapel, Nassau Church, on **Monday, May 7**, at 12:00 noon. A salad luncheon will follow in the Assembly Room. Feel free to bring a salad to share. There will be bus service to the church from the Mountain Avenue parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and from the church to the parking lot at 2:00 p.m. For more information, you may contact Shuang Huang (609-683-0385).



Trenton Area
Habitat
for Humanity®

HABITAT PARTNER FAMILY UPDATE! – Our Habitat for Humanity house will be completed sometime in May. Now, it is time to help prepare our partner family for home ownership and help them make their new house a

home. Jackie Collier, the mother of our family, and her three children currently live with Jackie's mother. She is very excited about the prospect of owning her own home. She needs help with many household items. With Jackie, we have created a "wish list" gift registry at three local stores: Target, Linens and Things, and Home Depot. If you would like to contribute to our Habitat Family, you can do one of the following:

1. Go to one of the three stores. Ask customer service for the Jackie Collier Wish List and purchase an item which you may bring to WSPC by May 25.
2. For online ordering, go to: www.target.com; www.lnt.com; www.homedepot.com. Select gift registry for Jackie Collier and have gift shipped to you. Deliver to the church by May 25.
3. Purchase a gift card at one of these stores and bring to the church.

There will also be an opportunity to give the gift to the Collier family at the House Dedication Ceremony (date to be determined).

We thank you in advance for your support. We also offer a special "thank you" to all Habitat volunteers who helped with the house. We will be planning a special "thank you" event for all of you at a future date!