

# Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: [www.wITHERSPOONCHURCH.ORG](http://www.wITHERSPOONCHURCH.ORG)

Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education  
Elsie McKee, Lector

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

May 6, 2007

10:00 a.m.

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

### PRELUDE

### INTROIT

*Lead Me, Lord*

Wesley

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### CALL TO WORSHIP: BASED ON PSALM 148 AND JOHN 1:14, 16

Leader: Praise the Lord who spoke the word which created the grandeur of the heavens

**People: For brilliant moon and countless stars, sun and rain and blue-skied days, we praise the Lord!**

Leader: Praise the Lord who spoke the word which created the fragile beauty of the earth and the seas:

**People: For changing seasons; the contours of land and sea; for heat and cold, wind and calm, we praise the Lord!**

Leader: Praise the Lord who spoke the word which created trees and plants, animals and birds, and multi-colored people:

**People: For environment which sustains boys and girls, women and men; poor and rich, young and old, we praise the Lord!**

Leader: Praise the Lord, the Word who became flesh and who lived among us full of grace and truth:

**People: We have seen his glory and from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace – praise the Lord. Hallelujah!**

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

### PRAYER OF ADORATION AND PRAISE

**All: Creator God, source of power and majesty and glory, we worship and adore you. Your word brought light and life and order out of darkness, emptiness and chaos. Such awesome power leaves us speechless**

**with wonder. Yet our wonder is even greater, for you chose to show us that power and majesty and glory are made visible in and through the servant-hood, humility and sacrificial love of Jesus. His love revealed for all time that glorifying you means loving one another as he loves us. Only through such love are we identified as his disciples and as your people. All blessing and honor and glory be to you, O God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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\*OPENING HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

#376

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Leader:** Let us pray: Gracious and loving God, as we reflect on the wonder and glory of your being, and the depth of your love for us, we are conscious of our failure to learn from you and from the sacrificial love of Jesus. So often our understanding of glory is linked with prestige and power and position. Jesus' understanding of glory was linked to a love that was prepared to go to the uttermost limits of love.

**People:** **Forgive us when selfish pursuit of glory takes precedence over Jesus' command to love one another as he has loved us.**

**Leader:** "As he has loved us" – we confess our lack of commitment to make Jesus' self-giving love the truly identifying mark of our community of faith.

**People:** **Forgive us when we put economic, racial, social or other boundaries on our love.**

**Leader:** When we express his limitless love in all our relationships and dealings with people, both inside and outside the church – then – Jesus said "everyone will know that you are my disciples."

**People:** **Remind us, O God, that even when our love falters, your love remains constant.**

**Leader:** You have the power to make all things new.

**People:** **Renew and rekindle our love for you and for one another.**

**Leader:** Fill our hearts and minds with Jesus' selfless love so that, like him, we glorify you in all we do and say. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

**Congregational Response (Sung):**

#384

**O love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
That in Thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.**

**O joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,**

**And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.**

Words by George Matheson. Music by Albert Lister Peace. CCLI# 498673

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God makes all things new (Rev. 21:5). Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed away; everything has become new (2 Cor. 5:17)! Friends, believe the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are loved, we are blessed, 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!

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

\*HYMN *Help Us Accept Each Other* #358

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 13:31-35 Page 108

SPECIAL MUSIC *Break the Bread* Schram

SERMON *You Want Me to Do What?* Rev. Muriel Burrows

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

*(Please note that the Ushers will take the weekly tithes and offerings –  
followed immediately by the Deacons who will take  
the monthly offering for their particular ministry.  
Please hold your Deacons' offering and put it into the second plate.)*

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**All: Gracious God, bless these gifts and our lives, we pray. May they be used to glorify you through our obedience to Jesus' commandment to love one another as he has loved us. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### **The Invitation**

*Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking: If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me (Rev. 3:20).*

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift our hearts to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

We praise you, O God, Creator of all things and Lover of all people. Out of your deep care for your people, you liberated them from slavery and led them to freedom, teaching them your ways of justice and peace. When they strayed from your ways, you sent the prophets to guide them back to your paths of righteousness. When their words went unheeded, you broke into our history in the person of Jesus Christ. Through his death and resurrection, he overcame evil and restored us to you, giving us the assurance that your goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

And so, with all the company of heaven and earth, we praise your holy name saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

At this table we remember that night when Jesus washed his disciples' feet and sat down at a table with them to share the meal with them. And on that night – the night of his betrayal – he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, *This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.* In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, *This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Cor. 11:23b-26).*

We remember and give thanks for such love.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the life of Christ and that we may make his life visible through our acts of love and goodness and mercy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

### **Blessing of the Cup**

When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

### **Lamb of God**

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**People: Grant us peace.**

### **Distribution**

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God....

HYMNS	<i>I Come with Joy</i>	#507
	<i>Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether</i>	#504

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Gracious God, we give you thanks for refreshing and renewing us in this meal with the life of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Strengthened by his life – the food of eternal life – we go from here to be eager bearers of his word and willing followers of his way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN	<i>Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ</i>	#514
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### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION	<i>In Me</i>	Tindley
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\* 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 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 Passing of the Peace. (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 Edwina Hawes is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Harper Joseph.

**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 Joyce Abbott and Joan Tomlin. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Rachel Maddox and Jillian Ojeda with Kaylin Blount, manager.

**COMMUNION SERVERS** for this morning are Joan Davis, Gloria Frederick, James Frederick, and Ruppert Hawes.



**COFFEE HOUR** – There is no Coffee Hour today. However, the 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 29 was 121.



### **FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK – JOHN 13:31-35**

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

✠ The Gentile problem continues to be revisited in local and global contexts. What does this passage teach us about dealing with racial, ethnic, and national differences?

✠ In our times, what renders something unclean?

✠ As we consider the lifestyle of next generation worshipers, what guidelines will you need in your local congregation to discern the difference between things sacred, things secular, and things that are profane?

**LECTIONARY TEXT** for next Sunday, May 13, is Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; John 14:23-29; Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5.



**DEEPEST SYMPATHY** – The Witherspoon community expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of *Simeon Moss*. He passed away last Sunday; his funeral took place yesterday at Witherspoon church.



**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.



**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.



**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 **tomorrow** 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).



**COME TO THE ANNUAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FORUM TODAY** 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. You can help by filling out the survey inserted in the bulletin; place it in the offering plate.



**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 **next two Sundays, May 13 and 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.



**Music at Witherspoon** | **NOONTIME RECITAL SERIES** – Come one, come all! Our *Noontime Recital Series* concludes for 2006-2007 **this 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 **next 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.



**COALITION FOR PEACE ACTION** is hosting a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall **today** from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. “Immigration” will be the topic for the evening. **Everyone** is invited.



**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!



**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](http://www.target.com); [www.lnt.com](http://www.lnt.com); [www.homedepot.com](http://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!



### **PROPERTY ACQUISITION UPDATE**

(as of January 31, 2007)

Total collection for property acquisition* .....	\$154,655
Total expenses* .....	<u>109,155</u>
<b>Balance</b> .....	<b>\$ 45,500</b>

\*2004-2007