

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Janet Dickerson Stephens, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Organist
Victor Richards, Flutist

September 9, 2007

10:00 a.m.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Dance of the Blessed Spirits

Gluck

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CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18 (read responsively)

Leader: ¹ O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.

People: ² **You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

Leader: ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

People: ⁴ **Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.**

Leader: ⁵ You hem me in – behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

People: ⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

Leader: ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

People: ¹⁴ **I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

Leader: ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

People: ¹⁶ **Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

Leader: ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

People: ¹⁸ **Were I to count them they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.**

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

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

All: God of all generations, as the author of the psalm acknowledged your creative presence in such an intimate and personal way, so we affirm your presence with us in an even more wonderful and personal way – in the relationship established through Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit. We praise and thank you, O God, for reaching out to us and touching our lives in this way. We turn towards you in gratitude, seeking to love as we have been loved and pray that this time of worship will be a worthy offering of praise and thanksgiving for the way you lay your guiding hand on our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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*OPENING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#464

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we know in our hearts that discipleship demands an utterly new way of seeing people as you did, and being with them unconditionally, as you were, but the journey from heart to eyes and hands and feet can be long and difficult. We confess that we find it especially difficult to remember that loving you takes priority over everything and everyone else in our lives – even family and friends. Remind us that when we do love you like this, our relationships are shaped by this love also and can become deeper and stronger.

People: **Forgive our reluctance to proclaim with our lips and our lives that you are Lord of our lives.**

Leader: We confess that we prefer our journeys of faith to be devout, but not too daring; comfortable and not too threatening.

People: **Forgive our fear of treading your way of obedience – the way of the cross.**

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, give us the grace to trust in the unknowing nature of your call to each of us and the unknown direction which you call us to travel. You have traveled the road already so what have we to fear?

People: **Jesus, Savior and Lord, we do want to be your followers so that we can reveal through our lives, as you did, the shape of God's unconditional love.**

Leader: May we be filled, renewed, and guided by the Holy Spirit so that we commit ourselves anew to the challenge of following Jesus Christ – serving and loving others in his name and for his sake. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#391

**Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.**

Words by Frances Ridley Havergal. Music by H. A. Cesar Malan. CCLI# 498673

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15) – so rejoice – for in him, we are forgiven, we are healed, we are renewed.

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!

*HYMN

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

#393

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 14:25-33

Page 78

Philemon 1-21

Pages 215-216

DEDICATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Minister: Today, Sunday school classes begin – where we learn new things about God and about how God wants us to live for Jesus. What you do in your classrooms – you students and you teachers – and what we do here in the sanctuary is all connected together – and it's all important. We work together, each in the way God has given to us, to build a stronger church – and ever more faithful people of God. The Sunday school has an important place in our life together – it is the place where faith is nurtured in the young.

Without our children and youth, we are poorer. Without the teachers and helpers, we are weaker. Without the parents and the rest of the congregation, we are less than God wants us to be. So, today, in recognition of this fact – we make a set of promises to one another before God – we enter into a covenant to love and support each other, to grow and learn together, and to make God and faithfulness to God the center of our lives.

COVENANTING WITH TEACHERS

(Teachers and leaders will please stand)

Teachers: We will walk with God and with the children and youth of our congregation. We will work together and with God’s help we will do our best to learn, to live, and to teach the way of Jesus.

COVENANTING WITH STUDENTS

(Students will please stand)

Students: We thank God for our church school, for the teachings of Jesus, and the vision of Jesus’ way. We will come to church school as often as we can and do our best so that we may learn about God and be with the family that God has given us.

COVENANTING WITH PARENTS AND THE CONGREGATION

(Parents and congregation will please stand)

People: We love our children. We will encourage them to live in the way of Jesus. We will join with them, in studying God’s word. We will try our best to grow with them in faith. And we will support the work of our church school with our time, our talent, our treasure, and our prayers.

LET US PRAY

Dear God, as we have promised before each other and before you, so let it be. Pour out your power and your grace upon us. Help us be your family and to seek together to live your way; to learn together to do your will; to work together to help one another; and to share with each other the joys and concerns you place upon your hearts. We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

DECLARATION

Minister: In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I declare this covenant to have been made. May God bless us and keep us, both now and forevermore. Amen.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Concerto in F
Allegro non Molto*

Vivaldi

SERMON

Free, But Not Cheap

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 *Largo e Cantabile* Vivaldi

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: Eternal God, we offer these gifts and the service of our lives – praying that they are acceptable to you. May they be evidence of our desire to follow Jesus, and our turning away from all that hinders our discipleship. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* #430

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Allegro* Vivaldi

* 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 grades 1-6 begins immediately after the dedication of Sunday school teachers and youth. Grades 1-3 will be taught by Audi Peal and Karen Delk; grades 4-6 will be taught by Mary McGriff and Melinda Velez. A nursery is available for children ages 0-5. Bible and Bagels for adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. for three Sundays: October 14, 21 and 28. The topic of study is: *Bad Boys and Bad Girls of the Bible*. Come for breakfast and discussion; watch for more information in coming weeks.

ATTENDANCE at the service of September 2 was 74.



FLOWERS – Flowers for today's service were given by **Bobbie Franklin Wells** in *memory of her parents: Eva Stanton Franklin and William West Franklin, Jr.* 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 September 16.

USHERS for this morning's service are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Jasmine McEwen and Sianna Peal with Diamond Holland, manager. Next week's ushers are Cheryl and Manual Ojeda.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of September is Michelle Peal. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Michelle (908-369-4753). The Usher Board is sponsoring a special "End of Summer Picnic" after church complete with hotdogs, chicken wings and other fixings, and – to top it off – ice cream sundaes! Please plan to join us!



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK: PHILEMON 1-21

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

- † What was it that Paul did to change or convert Onesimus?
- † What part does love play in any change for the good?
- † Has love worked to change anything in your life?
- † Slavery was an accepted institution in Paul's time. Yet he says there are no divisive social barriers in Christ. This was a revolutionary idea. What are some social institutions today that are barriers of division in our world?

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, September 16, is Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS – Those who want to explore membership at Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church are invited to a *New Member Class* in the Fellowship Hall **this Saturday, September 15**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A light breakfast will be provided. In order to have enough resource packets available, please confirm your attendance by Wednesday, September 12, to Rev. Burrows (609-924-1666 or mburr45@verizon.net).



BIBLE STUDY AT WITHERSPOON – PW Bible Study at Witherspoon will resume **next Wednesday, September 19**, at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue with *Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in the Books of Jonah and Ruth*. Joyce MacKichan Walker, Director of Christian Education at Nassau Presbyterian Church, will be the guest presenter. To prepare, please read the Book of Ruth and Lesson 6 in the study. All are welcome to attend.



CALLING ALL HABITAT VOLUNTEERS – There will be a special recognition of Habitat volunteers at the Sunday morning worship service on **September 23**. Volunteers, please plan to attend and wear your purple Habitat T-shirt.



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.



FELLOWSHIP

THEOLOGY ON TAP – Presbyterian Young Adults presents Theology on Tap on the second Thursday of the month (**September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13**) at 8:00 p.m. in the Yankee Doodle Tap Room, Nassau Inn, Princeton. Young adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to come and enjoy fellowship and theological discussion. For more information, contact Rev. Peter Hazelrigg (609-258-3644 or

pthazel@princeton.edu).



HEALTH FAMILIES, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES – Witherspoon members, friends and visitors are invited to lunch on **Sunday, September 23**, in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. Witherspoon and Princeton HealthCare System are sponsoring the luncheon as part of the *Healthy Families, Healthy Communities* program. Please join us in a discussion facilitated by Nancy Rhodes, RN and certified diabetes educator. Statistics confirm that diabetes affects us all.

On **Sunday, September 30**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., WSPC and Princeton Health Care System will host **World Heart Day**. Members of Witherspoon and the community are invited to join professional to learn more about lowering your risk for cardiovascular disease and receive free screenings for: blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose and stroke risk assessment.



CALLING ALL WOMEN! – The Presbyterian Women at Nassau Presbyterian Church invite all Witherspoon women to join them for an overview of their 2007-2008 Bible study: *Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth* by Joyce MacKichan Walker. This overview will take place on **Monday, September 17**, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room. Joyce is Minister of Education and author of Suggestions for Leaders. Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be provided. Bus service between Nassau Church and the Mountain Avenue parking lot will leave the parking lot at 9:45 a.m. and bring attendees back to the parking lot at the conclusion of the meeting. You may contact Claudene Harkins (732-297-1337) for more information.



YOU ARE INVITED – Paintings by Ben Colbert are included in a special exhibition of works by African-American artists at the Montgomery Center for the Arts in Skillman September 9 through October 6. The WSPC family is invited to attend the opening reception and artist talk on **Sunday, September 16**, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The center is located just off Route 206 N, about a mile from the Route 518 intersection. Watch for the sign on the right at the suburban bus stop shed.



PRINCETON ADULT SCHOOL offers many courses for all areas of interest. Brochures, available in the Narthex, describe courses offered and detail information about registration. Have questions about the PAS or available courses? See Shirley Satterfield.