

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 30, 2023

Welcome to Wallingford Presbyterian Church

Members and friends gather here each Sunday morning (and lots of times during the week!) to celebrate and serve. We rejoice that you are here with us, and hope that you'll feel right at home.

Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.

Face Masks for personal protection are optional for all activities on our campus. If you would like to wear one, we have KN-95 masks available for your use when you come to worship.

Friendship Pew Pads can be found at the end of each pew. Please fill them out and pass along to your neighbors.

Visitors are encouraged to reach out about activities they may be interested in attending.

Visual Worship Schedules are available upon request.

If You Need a Little Help Hearing, portable listening devices are available.

If a Fidget Toy Would Be Helpful For You, they are available at the Narthex entrance.

An All Gender Restroom is located in the Narthex.

An Infant Changing Station and Quiet Room for parents with little ones is located off the Narthex.

A Parents' Room Is Available downstairs for those with small children,

Activity Packets are available for children to use during worship.

Gluten Free Cookies will now be available during coffee hour. The tray of yummys will be marked – please save them for those with specific dietary restrictions.

Chancel Flowers are sponsored under a suggested donation of \$50. To order, use the Church Center App, the chart in the Fellowship Hall, or visit <https://bit.ly/3Wzyj1l>

Please ask an usher if you need help; we are here to assist you!

Sunday, July 30

9:30 am- Pick-up Choir

10:00 am- Young Disciples Sunday School

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

Monday, July 31

10:00 am- Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 01

4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

Wednesday, August 02

9:00 am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner

3:00 pm- Private Brass Lessons

3:30 pm- Private Flute Lessons

Thursday, August 03

Friday, August 04

Saturday, August 05

Sunday, August 06

10:00 am- Young Disciples Sunday School

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

A community where all who seek God are Welcome...



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“Suffering, failure, loneliness, sorrow, discouragement, and death will be part of your journey, but the Kingdom of God will conquer all these horrors. No evil can resist grace forever. If you reject the ragamuffin gospel and turn your back on Christianity, do so because you find the answers of Jesus incredible, blasphemous, or hopelessly hopeful.”

— Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

GATHERING

WELCOME, RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Psalmist writes, O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

OPENING PSALM #59

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

PSALM 105

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed. You are love in motion: always breathing us into being, calling us to serve, sustaining us in the wilderness. Come to us as the morning breaks. Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts until we worship with abandon, for we pray in the name of the Son you sent and through the Spirit that gives us life.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #19

God of Great and God of Small

GOD OF GREAT

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mystery, God of life,

we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes.

(Silent Confession)

Gracious God, hidden and manifest,

transform our withered imaginations until we yield the judgments we trust to a love we cannot control. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Sisters and brothers, nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, is enough to separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. Please turn to your neighbor and share these words of assurance:

“In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.”

*RESPONSE 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD (VASILE)

***Glory to God whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.***

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen (x3)

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All children are invited to come forward at this time. Parents are encouraged to accompany their younger children and sit with them on the chancel steps or in the front pews. The Young Disciples Room (ages 18 months - 5 years) is open during the duration of worship time. Our Junior Disciples (ages 6-12) are invited to either stay and worship or be a “shepherd” to the toddlers downstairs. There are activity packets at each entrance for children to enjoy during worship time.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION Christmas in July! Let's sing some favorite carols!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of life, we do not know how to pray as we ought. Meet us in words written, in words spoken; intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, until we shine with the hope that is hidden in our hearts, for we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

GOSPEL READING	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	NRSV NT 14
EPISTLE READING	Romans 8:26-39	NRSV NT 158
SERMON		
HYMN 823	Shall Tribulation or Distress	ROMANS 8

MISSION AND MINISTRY

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Scripture shows us there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus, who invites us into deep restoration and relationship. For there is nothing – neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation – that can separate us from God’s love.

Receive this relationship and experience the transformative power of God’s love. Let it renew your heart, your relationships and the world around you.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we want to welcome you into this community of faith. If you are ready and willing, we are here to receive you.

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

When we offer our lives for God’s transforming work, we embody a new way of understanding who we are – as a people in connection to one another and deeply invested in the work that God is doing with all the gifts that we have been given. As you offer your gifts in this time, let it be from a spirit of generosity, joy and expectation, that we might be part of the transformation we seek in the world.

OFFERTORY

Come, We That Love the Lord
Pick-Up Choir



If you wish to give electronically from your smartphone or tablet, please scan the box at the left, to go to the website where you can give to WPC via credit card, or give via the Church Center app.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We dedicate our lives to you this day and seal that promise by way of this offering. We give out of the abundance of our hearts, that the treasure of your kingdom may be shared with many. Thank you for giving us grateful hearts and a spirit of generosity for the flourishing of your realm. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*BENEDICTION AND PEACE

(Please exchange with one another, by words and gestures, signs of peace and reconciliation.)

****Those who are able, please stand.***

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*Thank you to Roger Demos, and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.
This week's flowers were given to the Glory of God by Roger Demos,
in celebration of his and Barb's 51st wedding anniversary*

59 The Steadfast Love of the Lord

(Psalm 105)

Capo 1: (D) (D/F#) (G) (A7sus) (A)
 E^b E^b/G A^b B^b7sus B^b

Refrain

The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; God's
 mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are
 new ev - ery morn - ing, new ev - ery morn - ing; great is your
 faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness.

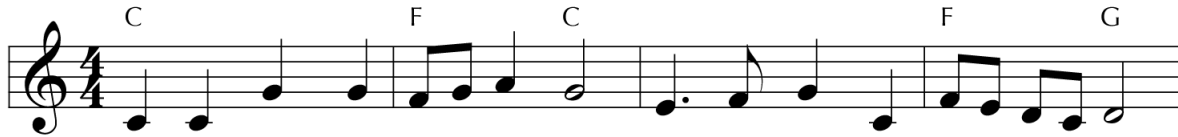
PSALM 105

Refrain

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Give thanks to the LORD
and call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD
among the peoples.</p> <p>2 Sing to the LORD, sing praises,
and speak of all God's
marvelous works.</p> <p>3 Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those
who seek the LORD rejoice.</p> <p>4 Search for the LORD
and the strength of the LORD;
continually seek the face of God.</p> <p>5 Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders and the judgments
of God's mouth,</p> <p>6 O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
O children of Jacob, God's chosen.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>7 The LORD is our God,
whose judgments prevail
in all the world.</p> <p>8 The LORD has always been mindful
of the covenant,
the promise made
for a thousand generations:</p> <p>9 The covenant made with Abraham,
the oath sworn to Isaac,</p> <p>10 which God established
as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel.</p> <p>42 For God remembered
the holy promise
and Abraham, chosen to serve.</p> <p>43 So God led forth the people
with gladness,
the chosen ones with shouts of joy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|---|

This psalm refrain quotes (with a few modifications) Lamentations 3:22–23, and the double singing of the final two phrases accentuates a sense of wonder. Finding ways to put Scripture, especially psalms, to music has long been a characteristic of the Reformed tradition.

God of Great and God of Small 19



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,
3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,
God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,
God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

Although it uses remarkably simple language, this text affirms a great mystery: beyond all our powers of explanation, God holds together all the opposites that seem to pull us in one direction or another. Yet God is present to them all and also to us; for that we give praise.

823 Shall Tribulation or Distress

Capo 1: (G) A^b (C) D^b (G) A^b

1 Shall trib - u - la - tion or dis - tress, shall per - se -
 2 Shall ill - ness, hun - ger, or de - spair, shall lone - ly
 3 No, nei - ther an - gel hosts nor thrones, nor height nor

(C) (Am) (B) (Em) (F)
 D^b B^bm C Fm G^b

cu - tion, fire, or sword, or an - y per - il of this
 grief or anx - ious fears, or deeds of ha - tred and dis -
 depth of e - vil's reach, nor pres - ent things, nor things to

(C) (Am7) (B) (Am) (B) (G)
 D^b B^bm7 C B^bm C A^b

world— or e - ven death, or e - ven death— shall an - y
 dain— or e - ven death, or e - ven death— shall an - y
 come— not e - ven death, not e - ven death— not an - y

(C) (Am) (Bm) (Em7) (C) (D7) (G)
 D^b B^bm Cm Fm7 D^b E^b7 A^b

power of earth or heaven di - vide us from your love, O Christ?
 power of earth or heaven di - vide us from your love, O Christ?
 power of earth or heaven can part us from your love, O Christ.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Reversing the usual pattern, the tune came first in this hymn; the tune name was assigned only after the text was written. The author first heard the repeated phrase "or/not even death" implied by the melody, which sent her to the passage from Romans 8:31–39 paraphrased here.

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR Dates are filling up! Mark these on your calendar:

- Rally Day
 - Sunday, Sept. 10
- World Communion
 - Sunday, Oct. 1
- Blessing of the Animals
 - Sunday, Oct. 8
- Blood Drive
 - Wednesday, Oct. 18
- Reformation Sunday
 - Sunday, Oct. 29
- Trunk or Treat
 - Sunday, Oct. 29
- All Saints' Sunday
 - Sunday, Nov. 5
- Pledge Sunday
 - Sunday, Nov. 12
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
 - begin Sunday, Nov. 19
- First Sunday of Advent
 - Sunday, Dec. 3
- Advent Open House
 - Sunday, Dec. 3
- Handel's Messiah
 - Sunday, Dec. 10
- Christmas Pageant
 - Sunday, Dec. 17
- Christmas Eve Services (10am, 7:30pm & 10pm)
 - Sunday, Dec. 24
- Christmas Day (no worship service)
 - Monday, Dec. 25
- Prime Time (second Tuesday of the month)
 - begins Tuesday, Sept. 12
- WOW (second Wednesday of the month)
 - begins Wednesday, Sept. 13
- Sprouts (first Friday of the month)
 - begins Friday, Sept. 8
- Youth Group (last Sunday of the month)
 - begins Sunday, Sept. 24
- Kids Café (first Sunday of the month)
 - begins Sunday, Oct. 1

FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM Falling is not a normal part of aging! Learn how to prevent falls by attending a seminar on doing the right exercises, making your home safer, getting regular health checkups and more. The free program, available to those aged 60 and over, will be held **12:30-3 p.m., Wednesday, August 16 and Friday, August 18**, at the PAC Center, 129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore.

To register, email Ellen Williams (williamse@co.delaware.pa.us) or call 610-499-1937.

WATCH THIS SPACE Watch for details about our re-scheduled summer events, “Inherit the Wind” and Coffee House.

YARD SALE Have some items to sell? Set up a table, **September 9**, at the Rutledge Borough Wide Yard Sale. The event will be held at Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church and proceeds will benefit its Deacons. Register online (<http://www.chamberschurch.org>); call 610-544-1493 or email chambersmemorialchurch@gmail.com for additional information.

OUR ONLINE WPC DIRECTORY Our church is starting to use the online Directory feature of our Planning Center membership software so that members can view contact information for those who have “joined” the directory. It’s easiest to use from the Church Center app on a smartphone (available from Apple App Store or from Google Play). If you have not yet joined, click the QR code below. Please contact Nathan in the church office with any questions.



PIN A pin with three butterflies was found on a pew after a recent worship service. Is it yours? Contact Nathan in the church office.

SUMMER SUNDAYS FOR KIDS Following A Time with Young Disciples, choose the best option for your children:

- Young Disciples (18 months – four years)
 - Sunday School open downstairs with lessons and crafts
- Junior Disciples (K-fifth grade)
 - be a shepherd for the younger children downstairs
 - remain in the service (activity bags available)

The programs continue through Labor Day.

RED WAGON WPC supports three food pantries – Chester Eastside, LifeWerks and Media Food Bank.

Chester Eastside is requesting:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Soup (condensed or ready to serve)
- Canned tuna, salmon, mackerel, chicken
- Canned vegetables
- Salad dressing
- Pasta sauce
- Pasta
- Boxed mac & cheese
- Stuffing
- Rice
- Packaged cookies and snacks
- Bottled water

