

WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 27, 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, KN-95 masks are 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, ADA Restroom is located in the Narthex.

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

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.

WPC Directory Our church uses the online directory feature of Planning Center.

Find it online or on the Church Center app. Contact the church office with any questions.

WPC Happenings Stay informed! Physical copies available out in the Narthex.

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

## **Sunday, August 27**

10:00 am- Young Disciples Sunday School

10:00 am- Worship

11:00 am- Coffee Hour

2:00 pm- Scouts

## **Monday, August 28**

10:00 am- Staff Meeting

7:30 pm- Session

## **Tuesday, August 29**

4:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

## **Wednesday, August 30**

9:00 am- Breakfast Group - Court Diner

3:00 pm- Private Brass Lessons

3:00 pm- Private Flute Lessons

## **Thursday, August 31**

## **Friday, September 1**

## **Saturday, September 2**

## **Sunday, September 3**

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: KINGDOM OF GOD

It is not a place, of course, but a condition. *Kingship* might be a better word. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done," Jesus prayed. The two are in apposition. Insofar as here and there, and now and then, God's kingly will is being done in various odd ways among us even at this moment, the kingdom has come already. Insofar as all the odd ways we do his will at this moment are at best half-baked and halfhearted, the kingdom is still a long way off—a hell of a long way off, to be more precise and theological. As a poet, Jesus is maybe at his best in describing the feeling you get when you glimpse the Thing Itself—the kingship of the king official at last and all the world his coronation. It's like finding a million dollars in a field, he says, or a jewel worth a king's ransom. It's like finding something you hated to lose and thought you'd never find again—an old keepsake, a stray sheep, a missing child. When the kingdom really comes, it's as if the thing you lost and thought you'd never find again is you.

-Frederick Buechner, Originally published in *Wishful Thinking*

### GATHERING

#### WELCOME, RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, "You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ."

**We, who are many, are called to worship God in all our diversity and unity.**

Come let us worship God with joy.

#### OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*OPENING HYMN #386

Come, Worship God

O QUANTA QUALIA

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, **we confess that we are conformed to this world.**

We conform to this world's frantic pace, **too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.**

*(Silent Reflection)*

We conform to this world's reckless waste, **exploiting what you entrust to our care.**

*(Silent Reflection)*

We conform to this world's shallow values, **oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.**

*(Silent Reflection)*

We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, **preferring the latest instead of the lasting.**

*(Silent Reflection)*

We think of ourselves too highly **and regard others as lowly.**

*(Silent Reflection)*

We exalt possessions and power, **when you alone are to be exalted.**

*(Silent Reflection)*

We let conflicts prevail over grace **and divisions over harmony.**

*(Silent Reflection)*

Have mercy upon us, we pray.

**Forgive our conformity and transform us, that we may be holy and acceptable to you, discerning and doing your will. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, **we would now be lost in sin.**

But it is the Lord who is on our side. **And so we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

\*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. Following A Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to the Reception Room to watch the video series "Friends and Heroes." 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

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

NRSV OT 681

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### MUSICAL OFFERING

Softly and Tenderly  
ft. Lisa Tolomeo Higgins on Flute

Will Thompson  
arr. B. Olstad

## SERMON

**MISSION AND MINISTRY**

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*The people of God are called not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed—by seeking the will of God for our lives and for the world. Through our common life and witness, God is working to transform the world. Will you join us in this calling? Will you come and be transformed? 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

## OFFERTORY



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

**Gracious God, we thank you for the measure of faith you have given to each of us. Increase in us generosity, compassion, and prophetic courage so we may continue to be your body in and for the world. With thanksgiving, we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

**SENDING**

## \*CLOSING HYMN #749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

## \*BENEDICTION AND PEACE

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

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

***“Words and music printed for the hymns, Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A71731.”***

*Thank you to Walt Kaminski, and all who assisted with the worship service this morning.*

*This week’s flowers were given to the Glory of God by Helene Furlong  
in loving memory of John R. and Helene Furlong.*

*This morning we welcome and give a special thank you to pianist/organist John Conahan who is  
subbing for Lee while she is away.*

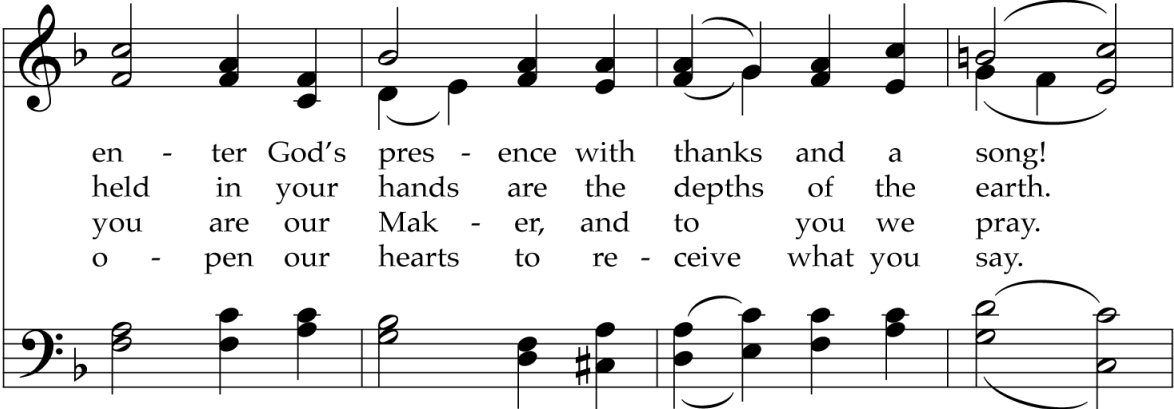
## 386

## Come, Worship God

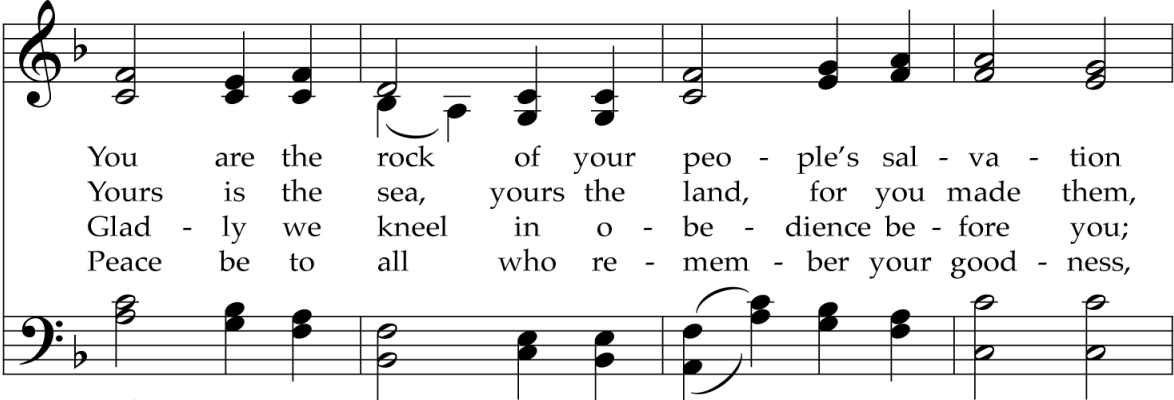
(Psalm 95)




1 Come, wor - ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;  
 2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;  
 3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;  
 4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;



en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!  
 held in your hands are the depths of the earth.  
 you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.  
 o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.



You are the rock of your peo - ple's sal - va - tion  
 Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,  
 Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;  
 Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,



to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.  
 God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.  
 great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!  
 trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!

Psalm 95, often called *Venite* from its first word in Latin, has long served as an opening canticle in the worship of Western Christianity. John Calvin found here two reasons to praise God: for sustaining the created world and for adopting the church into a gracious relationship.

# 749 Come! Live in the Light!

## We Are Called



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the  
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and  
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and



free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 vio - lence will be no more.  
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

*Refrain*



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

**Isaiah 51:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. <sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. <sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

**Romans 12:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

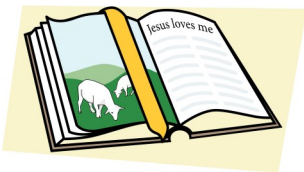


# RALLY DAY

**Kick off an exciting year at WPC!**  
**Sunday, September 10, 10 a.m.**

## **Congregational Meeting**

Elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees



**Bibles**

For kids of all ages

## **First Day of Sunday School**

Toddler Room (18 months – pre-K)

Early Elementary (grades K-2)

Older Elementary (grades 3-5)



## **Sunday School Registration**

Register before worship in the Narthex or Sunday School hallway



## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Kids – bring your backpack or receive one from Pastor Taylor



**Food Truck**

Yummy lunch!



## **Red Wagon**

Please bring non-perishables for the Red Wagon



**SANCTUARY CHAIRS** The chairs in the rear of the sanctuary are four of the 100 purchased as part of WPC's intentional outreach to people of all abilities. Pews are not necessarily the most inviting or conducive, especially for those with mobility issues, and Session, upon recommendation of the Worship Council, Sanctuary Committee and Abilities Initiative, decided we would intersperse sections of chairs among the pews.

You are invited to give them a tush test in the next few weeks before all are in place for Rally Day. It can be hard to retrofit old buildings and the effort is one of many to make our church a more welcoming, warm and inclusive community of faith.

**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL** Following A Time with Young Disciples, children are invited to the Reception Room to watch the video series "Friends and Heroes." Continues through Labor Day.

**CONTAINER WATERING** Just two weeks available – **September 3 and September 10**. Register using the Church Center app.

**CHANCEL CHOIR** New and returning singers – come to the first rehearsal of the season, **7:30 p.m., Thursday, September 7**. No experience necessary.

**SPROUTS BOWLING NIGHT** Kids – **meet 6 p.m., Friday, September 8**, at Sproul Lanes (745 West Sproul Road, Springfield) for strikes, spares and pizza. Open to children grades K-5.

**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 and proceeds will benefit its Deacons. Register online (<http://www.chamberschurch.org>); call 610-544-1493 or email [chambersmemorialchurch@gmail.com](mailto:chambersmemorialchurch@gmail.com) for additional information.

**RALLY DAY** Join **10 a.m., Sunday, September 10**, to kick-off an exciting year at WPC! The service will include a congregational meeting (elect Elders, Deacons and Trustees), first day of Sunday School and Bibles for children of all ages, blessing of the backpacks (kids – bring your backpacks for a blessing and goodies to put inside) and end with a food truck for a yummy lunch.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** The group will begin the season, **10 a.m., Monday, September 11**, with a study of First, Second and Third John. All are welcome – no Bible knowledge required. Meets weekly.

**FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS** Discuss a variety of topics, some political, in a non-threatening atmosphere, beginning **10 a.m., Wednesday, September 13**. Meets weekly.

**W.O.W. (WOMEN OF WALLINGFORD)** Meet, greet and eat, **7 p.m., Wednesday, September 13**. All women of our community of faith are welcome to participate in this ministry – we all have something to contribute to this amazing gathering.

**PARKINSON'S DISEASE** Did you know Parkinson's disease is the fastest growing neurological disorder and will soon surpass Alzheimer's disease in prevalence? WPC member Gwyn M. Vernon, MSN, RN, CRNP, a co-founder of the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder Center at the University of Pennsylvania, will describe Parkinson's disease (PD) and briefly address treatments, **11:30 p.m., Sunday, September 17**. Her talk will highlight how we as a community can help those in our church and neighborhoods who suffer with PD. **Presented as part of WPC's Disabilities Initiative.**

**BELL CHOIR** Join the ringers, **6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 21**, for the first rehearsal of the season. No experience necessary.

**YOUTH GROUP URBAN AIR** YGs – meet **4:30 p.m., Sunday, September 24**, at Urban Air Adventure Park (1260 East Woodland Avenue, Springfield) to kick off the season. Open to youth grades 6-12.

**BOOKLOOK** Join the discussion, **7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 27**, about "The Soul of America" by Jon Meacham. The #1 New York Times bestseller helps readers understand the present moment in American politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear. Contact Walt Kaminski to order – the cost is \$6.

**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