



WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MARCH 3RD, 2025
ASH WEDNESDAY

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, and hope that you'll feel right at home.



Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.



Friendship Pew Pads can be found in each row.

Please fill them out and pass along to your neighbors.

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



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 questions.

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



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

An All Gender, ADA Restroom is located in the Narthex.



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



Activity Packets are available for children to use during worship.



Fidget Toys for children (and adults) are available at the Narthex entrance.



Gluten Free Cookies are labeled and available during coffee hour.

Communion is served the first Sunday of the month.

WPC uses bread that is gluten free and made without tree nuts or peanuts.

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

STAFF & HOURS

PASTOR: Rev. François Lacroix

- Tuesday, 11:00am-4:00pm
- Wednesday, 10:00am-2:00pm

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Rev. Taylor Cornelius

- Monday, 11:00am-4:30pm
- Thursday, 10:00am-1:00pm

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lee Hagon-Kerr

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Nathan Gibson

- Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: Leslie Krowchenko

CLERK OF SESSION: Christine Darr

TREASURER: Todd Darr

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Michelle Hall

*Those who are able, please stand.

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



A STEPHEN SERIES CONGREGATION

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

OPENING SENTENCES

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

God abides with us and teaches us to die to self and to live repentant lives.

God's love endures forever. We return, we remember, and we will listen well.

Let us worship God.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HYMN #654	In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful	...EVER THANKFUL
HYMN #814	In God Alone	MON AME SE REPOSE
OLD TESTAMENT READING	Isaiah 58:1-12	NRSV OT 688
NEW TESTAMENT READING	2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10	NRSV NT 181
GOSPEL READING	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	NRSV NT 5
HYMN #471	O Lord, Hear My Prayer	HERE MY PRAYER
HYMN #544	Bless the Lord	BLESS THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVATION OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

CONFESSION

Holy God, you are the One who guards and guides our way.

Have mercy upon us.

To follow you is to trust you in paradox; that from a broken, aching heart,

rises a healing and hopeful heart.

that out of weakness and vulnerability,

grows the quickening of Christ's Love.

that in darkness and despair,

the radiance of Christ's Light shines.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, we fail to follow you; we turn away.

Forgive us, we pray.

As certain as the morning sun that rises, you are here, Lord.

Forgive us, we pray.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

This day. This Evening.

There was evening, then morning, the first day. And it was good. Very good.

This day. This Evening. Ashes to Ashes. Dust to Dust.

We are grounded in the Source of All Being. This day. This Evening.

For needing evidence for every holy matter,

and wanting none for our indifference to all injustice,

Forgive and accept our repentance.

For failure to speak and praise your name alone

and that we do not make a defense for the hope that is within us,

Forgive and accept our repentance.

Restore us, O God.

Favorably hear us, for your mercy and forgiveness are great. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The congregation is invited to come forward at this time to receive the imposition of ashes

HYMN #204

Stay with Me

STAY WITH ME

HYMN #205

Live in Charity

UBI CARITAS

SENDING

CLOSING PRAYER

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -

joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1986
 MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1986
 Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL
 Irregular

In God Alone

814

Mon âme se repose

In God a - lone my soul can find rest and peace, in
Mon â - me se re - po - se en paix sur Dieu seul: de

God my peace and joy. On - ly in God my
lui vient mon sa - lut. Oui, sur Dieu seul mon

soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.
â - me se re - po - se, se re - po - se en paix.

This prayer response based on Psalm 62:1, 5 comes from the ecumenical community in Taizé, France (see also no. 843). It is intended for repeated singing in either language (or both). It can also be used effectively as a recurring congregational response in a series of prayers.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1991
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1991
Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

MON ÂME SE REPOSE
Irregular

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The Lord Is My Song

471

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.
Or The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise:

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O
all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song; the

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.
Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1–2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

SENDING

544

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, a quarter note Bb2, and a half note C3. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name."

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The second system of music continues the melody. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, a quarter note Bb2, and a half note C3. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life."

This refrain based on Psalm 103:1 is meant for repeated singing. To "bless God's holy name" (which could not be spoken by observant Jews) is a reminder to be grateful even for what we cannot comprehend, trusting that God's providence will show us "the path of life" (Psalm 16:11).

Stay with Me

204

Stay with me; re - main here with me; watch and
pray. Watch and pray.

This chant from Taizé intended for repeated singing is based on Jesus' request to the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:38/Mark14:34), a simple request they did not fulfill. When singing these words we need to hear in them an ongoing call to be alert and faithful.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

STAY WITH ME
Irregular

Live in Charity

205

Ubi caritas

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love.
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

This refrain comes from a Latin hymn associated with the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday. Whether in English or Latin, it is most effective when sung unaccompanied and in parts. In many ways it is a miniature equivalent of "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" (see no. 727).

TEXT: Latin, 8th cent.; English trans. Taizé Community, 1991

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979

Text and Music © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

UBI CARITAS (Taizé)
Irregular

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.