

# *Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church*

124 Witherspoon Street  
Princeton, NJ 08542-3224

*Office (609) 924-1666 ♦ Fax (609) 924-0365*

*E-mail: witherspoon@verizon.net*

*Website: www.witherspoonchurch.org*

Rev. Donald Pitches, Guest Preacher  
Debra Jones-Peart, Lector  
Edin Orellana, Sexton

Fumi Nakamae Korodan, Director of Music  
Chun Tong, Guest Organist  
Cynthia Parker, Office Manager

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February 4, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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## **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

PRELUDE

*Organ Instrumental*

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (AAHH Litany 54)*

GATHERING HYMN

*Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door (AAHH #348)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

God our Creator knows us each by name and knows our hearts. Let us confess our sins before our God, who desires to save us and set us free.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, it's tempting to give up and give in, to hide from the injustices of the world, to protect ourselves and our own, to turn off the evening news full of bad news. Forgive our sins of escape, of ignoring, of turning our backs on those in need. Forgive our sins of apathy when you call us to action. Renew us, Holy God, by your grace. Strengthen us to follow Christ's call. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Psalm 103:17)

“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI

(PH #579)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

WELCOME OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

CHOIR ANTHEM

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*O Praise the Name*

**Verse 1**

**I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me  
I see His wounds His hands His feet  
My Saviour on that cursed tree**

**Verse 2**

**His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone**

**Chorus 1A**

**O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God**

**Verse 3**

**Then on the third at break of dawn  
The Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting  
The angels roar for Christ the King**

**Chorus 1A**

**O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God**

**Verse 4**

**He shall return in robes of white  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night  
And I will rise among the saints  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face**

**Chorus 1A**

**O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God**

**Chorus 1B**

**O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. Clear our minds of daily distractions. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

**FIRST READING**

*Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

<sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

SECOND READING

*Mark 1:14 - 20*

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.

<sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SERMON

*Does God Text?*

Rev. Donald Pitches

PROFESSION OF FAITH

(Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION HYMN *We Remember You* (AAHH #683)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our tithes and gifts to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Organ Instrumental*

DOXOLOGY *(PH #592)*

**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

O God, maker and provider, you have blessed us with many gifts. Use us, and what we have gathered, to feed the world through your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / INVITATION TO FELLOWSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

RESPONSIVE READING *Black History Observance* (AAHH Litany 57)

SENDING HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (AAHH #540)

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

AMEN

*Traditional*

POSTLUDE

*Organ Instrumental*

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Today's liturgy was created by Teri McDowell Ott (The Presbyterian Outlook).

**All announcements are attachments in the Weekly Fellowship Email that is emailed to the Congregation.**

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE LOCATED IN THE HALLWAYS TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT OF THE PULPIT, THE NARTHEX, AND THE BALCONY.**

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**OFFICE HOURS 112 WITHERSPOON ST.  
MONDAY - FRIDAY 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

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The CDC's most recent COVID Community Levels for Mercer County remain **Medium**. Witherspoon's COVID protocols for in-church worship service going forward are that **masks are recommended for in church worship for low risk parishioners and are highly recommended for people at high risk for severe illness** in consultation with their health care providers. **Hand sanitizing** before entering the sanctuary and **social distancing** within each pew such as sitting on the ends or in the middle of a pew are in effect. Self health screening at home is encouraged prior to worship. If you are not well, please stay at home and contact your healthcare provider. Witherspoon will continue to monitor our COVID Community Levels weekly and update our protocols when the levels change.



**WELCOME** – The Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon warmly welcome 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 if you are interested in church membership or if you want to be added to the church e-mail distribution list. (witherspoon@verizon.net or 609-924-1666)

**WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!** “Like” our Facebook page



(<http://www.facebook.com/WitherspoonStreetChurch>)

to get the latest updates on your wall. Share your WSPC comments, photos and videos. If you want pictures added or notices posted please send an email to the church office ([witherspoon@verizon.net](mailto:witherspoon@verizon.net)).

### **GIVING TO WITHERSPOON STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Support our mission using your credit or debit card. On our church website, click on the *Give Now* button. **WWW.WITHERSPOONCHURCH.ORG** <http://bit.ly/WSPCGive>

For those who prefer to give through the mail, please send your donations to: 112 Witherspoon St., Princeton NJ 08542

### **IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE**

Our Communion Preparer Shirley Satterfield, Greeter, and Tech Media Team

**NEED HELP?** Through generous donations by members and friends of Witherspoon, **THE DEACON BOARD** has resources available to provide monetary relief for members of our congregation who need **FINANCIAL SUPPORT** due to an extended illness, loss of a job, or other circumstances that are creating a difficult financial situation. We encourage you to let your deacon, the pastor, or an elder know if you, or a family member, needs financial assistance.

### **CALLING ALL VETERANS!**

Your attendance is requested at the next meeting of The American Legion of Princeton at Aaron Lodge #9 on **Friday, February 9 @ 6:00 PM** at Mt. Pisgah AME Church - 170 Witherspoon Street, Princeton. Your professional expertise and experiences are needed as we begin a new chapter under the Command of **Bruce Campbell**. A light supper will be served.



### **GUEST PREACHER REV. DONALD PITCHES**

I was ordained by the Hudson River Presbytery in 1976 in the Dayspring PC in Yonkers, NY. My first church was the Immanuel PC in Amsterdam, NY, and The First Presbyterian Church of West Galway, from 1976-1984. In September 1984, I was an occasional Pulpit Supply at the First PC of Carlstadt, NJ.

In January 1985, I became a part-time Stated Supply Pastor while also serving as a hospice chaplain in Montclair and as NJ State Correctional Chaplain. From 1991-2019, I served the Carlstadt church full-time, retiring at the end of December 2019. During that time, I was active in the Bergen County Council of Churches serving as President for four years. I served the Carlstadt Fire Department as Chaplain and from 1998 as a firefighter with Engine Company 1, rising to the rank of Captain.

Following retirement, my wife and I moved to Franklin Park, NJ to be near our daughter and her family in Kendall Park. My primary retirement occupation since then has been caring for two granddaughters, Beatrice, age 10, and Emily, age 6, before and after school. In addition, I recently concluded a term as pulpit supply at Grace Presbyterian Church in Kendall Park, where I was privileged to work with Rev. J. Warner.

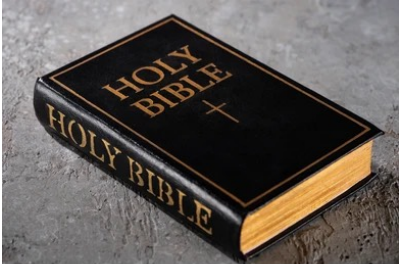




**FELLOWSHIP HOUR BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS** will be held **Sunday, February 25**. If you are celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in February, the Deacons invite you, your family, and friends to join us in celebrating you and your important event on this the last Sunday of your special event month.

**JOIN THE BELL CHOIR FOR EASTER!**

The Handbell Choir will begin rehearsing for Easter service on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 10-12:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Anyone who is interested in ringing bells are invited to attend. No previous experience in reading music is needed, participants will learn to read during each session. .



### SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We invite you to connect with us each Saturday morning at 10 a.m. to study and discuss scripture. All are welcome to be with us as we learn together.

**February 3 1st Corinthians 14 and 15**

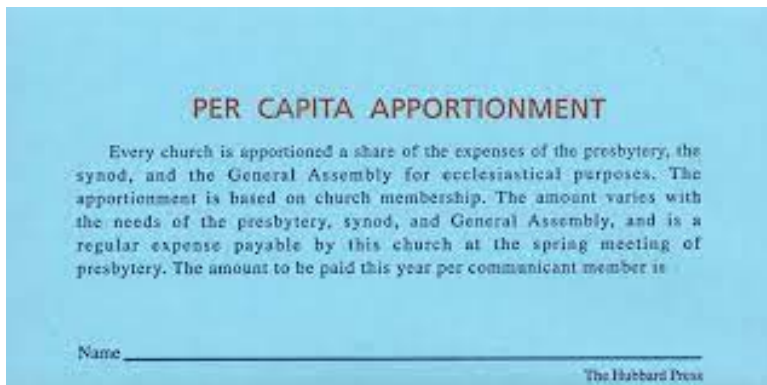
**February 10 1st Corinthians 16**

### VOLUNTEER MUSICIANS

Do you have a gift that God gave you? Do you feel led to share it with us at Church? Volunteer Musicians for all instruments are needed to add to our Music Ministry for Sunday and Special Worship Services. Volunteer guitar player(s) (amplified, non-amplified or electric) are also needed for select Sunday Worship Music. We encourage you to come, rehearse and play with us!



Please contact Fumi Korodan, Music Director at [fumi@pixi.com](mailto:fumi@pixi.com) (732) 317-8546 to share your gifts with Witherspoon.



**2024 PER CAPITA \$40**

Pay Online [LINK](#)

By Mail - Send check to 112 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08542

In Church - In Collection Plate during Worship Service

**GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW ANNOUNCEMENTS, FLYERS, AND  
CALENDAR EVENTS:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.WITHERSPOONCHURCH.ORG](https://www.witherspoonchurch.org)**

**WATCH SERVICE ON THE WSPC WEBSITE**

**WSPC website <https://www.witherspoonchurch.org>**

**A MESSAGE FROM WITHERSPOON'S TECH/MEDIA TEAM:**

Witherspoon is transitioning to a new streaming platform and Tech/Media staffing. Periodically we will not be able to stream to Zoom, YouTube and Facebook. **On this Sunday February 4, 2024 we will be streaming the Worship Service to Zoom and to YouTube.** We will continue to update our streaming availability weekly.

**WITHERSPOON'S TECH/MEDIA TEAM**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OPERATING THE SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY TO LIVE STREAM THE WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAYS? JOIN OUR TECH MEDIA TEAM AND LEARN HOW TO BRING WITHERSPOON'S MESSAGE TO OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR ONLINE VIEWERS!!**

**EMAIL [witherspoon@verizon.net](mailto:witherspoon@verizon.net) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE TRAINING LESSONS!!**



## **CHOIRS CONTINUE WITH A NEW SCHEDULE!!**

We are continuing all Choirs rehearsing and singing at Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church during Worship Service with a new schedule!!

Both **CHOIR MEMBERS** and **NEW SINGING AND VERSE SPEAKING VOICES** are invited to join in fellowship in our **MUSIC MINISTRY** to meet, greet and work with Fumi Korodan our Music Director and Cecelia Hodges our Verse Speaking Choir Director to sing, speak in verse and review planned rehearsals, repertoire, scripts and upcoming music and verse speaking events. All are welcome to audition.

All are welcome to join us in rehearsal to prepare to perform at any time that you are inspired to begin membership in our Music Ministry! Please look forward to upcoming announcements about the new choir rehearsal schedule. All Choir rehearsals will begin promptly at their designated rehearsal times.

Our **MENS CHORUS** will rehearse on **Sundays** following Chancel Choir Rehearsal. The estimated starting time for Men's Choir rehearsal is 12:30 p.m. **Everyone is invited to sing.**

### **VERSE SPEAKING CHOIR**

If you've been thinking about joining the Verse Speaking Choir, but haven't gotten around to it, now is the time! We'll be performing every third Sunday in church. The Choir meets at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesdays, in the sanctuary. Come and raise your voice in biblical, secular, and sometimes even fun selections. **EVERYONE** is invited.

Our **CHANCEL CHOIR** will rehearse on **Sundays at 11:30 a.m.** and will perform Anthems and Hymns on Sundays to be determined. Everyone is invited to sing.