

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Sharyl Dixon, Guest Preacher
Karen Delk, Lector
Edin Orellana, Sexton

Fumi Nakamae Korodan, Director of Music
Edgar Newton, Guest Organist
Cynthia Parker, Office Manager

November 26, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Reign of Christ Sunday

PRELUDE

Thanks Be to God, by Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is she who made us, and we are hers.

We are God's people, the sheep of her pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to God; bless his name.

For the Lord is good; her steadfast love endures forever.

God's faithfulness is from generation to generation. Let us worship

God!

GATHERING HYMN

Come Ye Thankful People Come (PH #551, vs. 1-3)

CALL TO CONFESSION (from Ezekiel 34:11-12)

Thus says the Lord our God: "I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out the scattered sheep, so I will seek out my people."

Trusting that God is indeed seeking us, let us confess our sin together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherding God, you have called to us, but we have not answered.

You have sought us out, but we have continued to wander. You have

tenderly gathered us together and cared for us, but we have not extended that same care and mercy to others. Forgive us. Remind us. Teach us. Set us free from sin that we might turn toward your love and justice for the whole world. Guide us so that, tentative step after tentative step, we may walk your way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Ezekiel 34:15-16)

Thus says the Lord our God: "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak."

**The relentless grace of Jesus Christ always finds and forgives us.
Thanks be to our ever-seeking God!**

*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!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Let All Things Now Living

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

PSALM READING

Psalms 34:1-11

¹I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
²My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
³O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.

⁷The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

⁹O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.

¹⁰The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

¹¹Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:25-33

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

READING

I Thessalonians 5:16-22

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

SERMON

Taste and See the Lord Is Good

Rev. Sharyl Dixon

PROFESSION OF FAITH

(from the Theological Declaration of Barmen)

**As Jesus is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins,
so in the same way
and with the same seriousness
is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life.
Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance
from the godless fetters of this world
for a free, grateful service to his creatures.
We reject the false doctrine,
As though there were areas of our life
in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ,
but to other lords —
areas in which we would not need justification
and sanctification through him.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Jesus calls us to reach out and care for our neighbors in need. One way we do that is together as the church: the corporate body of Christ. Let us offer our gifts to God for God's work in our community.

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

Generous God, we bless your name because you have called us and claimed us and sent us into the world to do your will. Receive now this offering, both of our money and our lives. Through these gifts, may the hungry be fed, the thirsty quenched, the naked clothed, and the stranger welcomed. In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

SENDING HYMN *I'm Going to Live So God Can Use Me* (PH #369)

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

AMEN (PH #587)

POSTLUDE *Toccata on St. Anne, by Young*



Today's liturgy was created by Ginna Bairby (The Presbyterian Outlook).

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

The CDC's most recent COVID Community Levels for Mercer County remain Low. Witherspoon's COVID protocols for in-church worship service going forward are that **masks are optional 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).

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 Ushers and Tech Media Team



CHRISTMAS AT WITHERSPOON will be held on **Sunday December 10** immediately after the Worship Service. There will be **Christmas songs** by the Chancel Choir, readings by the **Verse Speaking Choir** and the Celebration will continue in the Fellowship Hall where the **Deacons' Luncheon** will be held after the performances.



THE DEACON'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING *CHRISTMAS AT WITHERSPOON*

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

PLEASE LET YOUR DEACON OR THE OFFICE MANAGER (609-924-1666)
KNOW HOW MANY IN YOUR FAMILY ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND
BY NOVEMBER 26, 2023

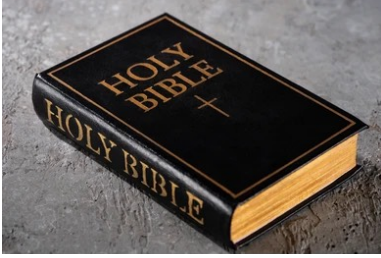


GUEST PREACHER SHARYL DIXON

For 31 years, Sharyl (rhymes with Carl) has served churches and communities in Northern California, Aberdeen, Scotland, Brooklyn NY, Upper Bucks County Pennsylvania and presently as pastor in the village of Kingston. She is also pleased to be serving Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church as your session Moderator and as the chair of the WSPC Administrative Commission.

Sharyl is passionate about hearing and learning people's stories, connecting people and their faith, while serving neighbors, and making sure others know God's love. Mentoring, coaching, working with seminarians, leading workshops to encourage church leaders (lay and ordained), allows her to partner in the Presbyteries and Synods she has served in sharing her gifts beyond the congregations she has been called alongside.

Aside from being a Northern Californian in exile, Sharyl is a proud aunt and loves to read, kayak, and test new recipes. She also finds great joy being married to Philadelphia's favorite John Adams historical interpreter, Peyton Dixon, and taking walks with their rescue dog, Baxter.



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.

November 25 I Corinthians 4-6

December 2 Advent Readings



FELLOWSHIP HOUR BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS will be held **THIS Sunday November 26** immediately following the Worship Service. If you are celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in November, 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.



VOLUNTEER MUSICIAN

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!

This Week at Witherspoon

Today	Worship - Guest Preacher Rev. Sharyl Dixon	10:00 AM
	Birthdays/Anniversaries Fellowship	11:00 AM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	11:30 AM
Monday		
Tuesday	Verse Speaking Choir (Sanctuary)	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Sunday Worship Planning Group (via Zoom)	5:30 PM
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday	Saturday Morning Bible Study (via Zoom)	10:00 AM
	Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	10:00 AM
Next Sunday	Worship - Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Andrew Scales	10:00 AM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	11:30 AM