

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.witherspoonchurch.org

Rev. Ron Thompson, Guest Preacher
Jeff Yuan, Lector
Edin Orellana, Sexton

Fumi Nakamae Korodan, Director of Music
Cynthia Parker, Office Manager

May 21, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

Psalm 150

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 148 : 1–2)

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise the Lord in the heights!**

Praise God, all God's angels;

praise God, all God's host!

**Praise the Lord from all the earth;
Praise the Lord with joy!**

Come, let us offer praise and worship to the Lord our God!

GATHERING HYMN

*This Is the Day (AAHH #108)
I Will Enter His Gate*

**This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord hath made
That the Lord hath made
We will rejoice
We will rejoice
And be glad in it
And be glad in it
This is the day**

**That the Lord hath made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord hath made**

**I will enter His gates
With thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day
That the Lord has made
I will rejoice
For He has made me glad
He has made me glad
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for
He has made me glad
He has made me glad
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for
He has made me glad**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Confession is a mirror by which we see ourselves more clearly. Let us offer our prayers to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, you created us in your image. You are three in one. From before time began, you existed in perfect communion. Yet day by day, we choose not to live into your image. We choose division, pointing out others' wrongs, and arguing. Please remind us of our need for one another. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**We are God's people
created, loved and forgiven.
The God of all grace has called us by name.
God will restore, support, strengthen and establish us.
It is good news to celebrate.
We are forgiven!**

*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!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our eyes; open our hearts. May we hear your Word read and proclaimed so that our lives and our witness will be strengthened. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:6–14

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

SECOND READING

John 17:1-11

¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

SERMON

Seeking Guidance Together

Ron Thompson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from A Declaration of Faith)

We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.

We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in

every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

To God we give in thankful response for all the gifts God has given us. The money we give is but one way we say, "thank you." The morning offering will be received.

OFFERTORY SELECTION

The Old Rugged Cross (AAHH #244)

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.**

**In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.**

**To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
It's shame and reproach gladly bear.
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.**

Refrain:

**So I'll cherish the cross, the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the cross, the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

DOXOLOGY

**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

Good and gracious God, the money we place in plates or give online we pray will be used to bring your kingdom to earth. May our gifts strengthen this congregation to be more faithful, more present and more daring in our community and to the ends of the earth. 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

Holy, Holy, Holy (PH#138)

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

BENEDICTION

AMEN

Traditional

Today's liturgy was created by Lauren McFeaters, Austin D. Hill, and Sharon K. Core as published in *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

**OFFICE HOURS 112 WITHERSPOON ST.
M-F 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
to Our Church

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).

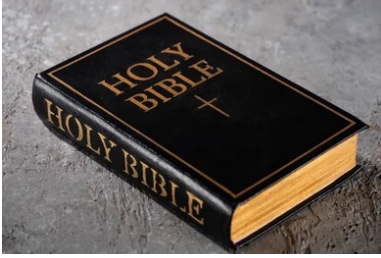
IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE

Our Ushers and Tech Media Team



GUEST PREACHER RON THOMPSON

Rev. Ron Thompson was born, raised and continues to live in Union County, New Jersey. Pastor Ron believes that he “can do all things through Christ,” who is the source of his strength (Ephesians 4:13). He has a BS in Organizational Management from Nyack College, New York as well as a Master of Divinity from Cairn University, Pennsylvania. His mother was instrumental in starting his early Christian training at the Greystone Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, NJ. His Christian education and spiritual formation continued at the Greater Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Linden, NJ. There he would later receive his call to ministry. Pastor Ron was ordained as an Associate Minister in 1991. He accepted the opportunity to serve as Interim Pastor and then Pastor of the Imani Temple Baptist Church of Elizabeth, NJ. He is currently the installed pastor at Townley Presbyterian Church, Union, NJ. Pastor Ron built a career as a “tent maker” (co-vocational) enabling him to financially support his family, his educational expenses, and contribute to the advancement of the Gospel. He retired from the Bayway Refinery in Linden, NJ after 38 years. Ron has previously served as Vice Moderator and Moderator of the former Presbytery of Elizabeth. He has served on the Leader Search Team for the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey. Ron is currently a member of the Administrative Commission serving Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Vyonna, will be celebrating 43 years of marriage in June. They have two adult sons, Jeremy and Steven, and are blessed with three granddaughters and two grandsons.



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.

May 20 Isaiah 36 & 37

May 27 Isaiah 40 & 41

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.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS will be held **next Sunday May 28** immediately following Worship Service. If you are celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in May, 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.



HONORARY CLASSMATE OF HISTORIC CLASS OF '73

Please join Princeton University in honoring **DR. CECELIA HODGES** as she is invited to be inducted into Princeton University's Historic Class of 1973 as an Honorary Classmate based on **Dr. Hodges's involvement with the start of African American Studies at Princeton and her advocacy and care for students of color in our Class.**

When: Friday, May 26, arrival 5:45 for 6:00 p.m. program

Where: Alexander Hall, Princeton University

What: remarks by President Eisgruber, recognition of all of the Honorees and a program of entertainment until past 7:00 p.m.

WOMAN, CRADLE OF ABUNDANCE

OUTREACH AND MISSION deeply misses its most active member, our beloved **Rebecca Campbell**. In her memory we invite members of the congregation to join us in supporting a project which Rebecca planned last summer. She was very moved by the needs of women and children in Congo who suffer extreme malnutrition and have no health care. Rebecca proposed that we collect items such as multivitamins or calcium or band-aids, etc., to help the women and children in Kinshasa who are served by our partner ***Woman, Cradle of Abundance***. This nonprofit is planning a mission trip in July and will be taking these gifts in person on behalf of Witherspoon.

Bottles of calcium or multivitamins or boxes of band-aids or small monetary donations will be welcome. Thank you for helping us celebrate Rebecca's generous spirit! During the month of May, donations may be placed in the marked **basket in the narthex**. Checks may be made to *Woman, Cradle of Abundance* (or to WSPC with *Woman, Cradle of Abundance* in the subject line). Or mail check to: 115 Maine Ave., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002.



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 **VERSE SPEAKING CHOIR** will rehearse every **Tuesday at 6:30 pm** and will perform in Church every 3rd Sunday beginning on October 16 and continuing every 3rd Sunday thereafter. **Everyone is invited.**

Our **MENS CHORUS** rehearsal and performance times with a new schedule will be determined. **Everyone is invited to audition.**

Our **CHANCEL CHOIR** will rehearse on **Sundays at 11:30 am** and will perform Anthems on Sundays with a new schedule to be determined. **Everyone is invited to audition.**

For additional information and inspiration please contact the church office at (witherspoon@verizon.net or 609-924-1666)

This Week at Witherspoon

Today	Worship - Guest Preacher Ron Thompson	10:00 AM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	11:30 AM
Monday		
Tuesday	Verse Speaking Choir (Sanctuary)	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Sunday Worship Planning Group (via Zoom)	5:45 PM
	Buildings and Grounds Committee (via Zoom)	7:00 PM
Thursday	Worship & Music Committee (via Zoom)	5:45 PM
Friday		
Saturday	Saturday Morning Bible Study (via Zoom)	10:00 AM
Next Sunday	Worship - Guest Preacher Jackie Murphy	10:00 AM
	Birthdays/Anniversaries Fellowship	after worship
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	11:30 AM
	Chancel Committee	12:00 PM

NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Vacation Bible School

age 3 - rising grade 6

volunteer positions for older youth and adults

Have we got a story for you!
Come hear how two fearless queens face down
one powerful king (plus a crafty court official)
and try to change the course of history.

MON - THU, JUNE 26-29, 9AM - 12PM
61 NASSAU STREET, PRINCETON



Learn more and register:
www.nassauchurch.org/vbs