

# *Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church*

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Dr. Elsie McKee, Guest Preacher  
Angela Witcher, Lector  
Edin Orellana, Sexton

Fumi Korodan, Director of Music  
Cynthia Parker, Office Manager

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April 30, 2023

10:00 a.m.

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## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

PRELUDE

*Yet Not I but Christ in Me*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on John 10:1-10)

Our Good Shepherd calls.

**He knows us each by our name.**

Our Good Shepherd leads.

**We are here to listen and to follow.**

Our Good Shepherd protects and provides.

**We give thanks and praise for our Good Shepherd.**

GATHERING HYMN

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (AA #371)*

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms;**

**What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms;**

**O how bright the path grows from day to day,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms?**

**I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**REFRAIN**

**Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of all glory,  
on this first day you began creation,  
bringing light out of darkness.  
On this first day you began your new creation,  
raising Jesus Christ out of the darkness of death.  
On this Lord's Day grant that we,  
the people you create by water and the Spirit,  
may be joined with all your works  
in praising you for your great glory.  
Through Jesus Christ,  
in union with the Holy Spirit,  
we praise you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess all that distracts and distorts God's truth, so we can know  
grace and forgiveness through Christ.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Savior God, you beckon us, but we do not heed your call. You gather  
us, but we wander away losing ourselves in false and superficial  
comforts. You speak truth, but we fail to hear and respond. Good  
Shepherd, do not give up on us. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us  
for life in Christ. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Even when we walk through the darkest valley, God is with us. God does  
not abandon us. Know that you are forgiven and receive Christ's peace.  
Alleluia. 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!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Savior God, we are in awe of you and the way you guide us to the  
greater good. You've gifted us with the Holy Spirit as our advocate and  
guide. Open us to the Spirit's wisdom and truth. Open our ears, minds  
and hearts to your Word read and proclaimed today. May we know  
your truth and respond in faith. Amen.**

FIRST READING

*Psalm 23*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;  
<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are  
with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint  
my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I  
shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

SECOND READING

*Acts 2:42-47*

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to  
the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone,  
because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All  
who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they  
would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to  
all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in  
the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and  
generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the

people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SERMON

*Ideal, Real, and Today*

Elsie McKee

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5–11

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a servant,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:  
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Our God provides for us as a shepherd provides for his sheep. Let us return a portion of all we have been given in gratitude for our God's generosity.

OFFERTORY SELECTION

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (PH #403)

**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
Thou will find a solace there.**

#### 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

Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as tokens of our gratitude and bless Christ's ministry with these offerings. 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

*Come Thou Font of Every Blessing (AA #175)*

**Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace!  
Streams of mercy never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise:  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! O fix me on it,  
Mount of Thy redeeming love.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
Hither by Thy help, I'm come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home:  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.**

BENEDICTION

AMEN

*Traditional*

POSTLUDE

*Even If*



Today's liturgy was written by Teri McDowell Ott, as published in *The Presbyterian Outlook*, and Lauren McFeaters.

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

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
THURSDAY, MAY 4 AND FRIDAY, MAY 5**

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 worshippers. 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)

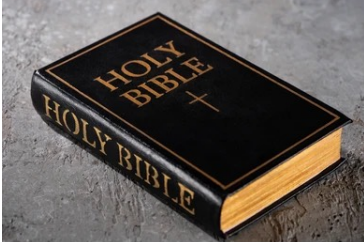


**WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!** “Like” our Facebook page  
(<http://www.facebook.com/WitherspoonStreetChurch>)

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)).

## **IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE**

Our Ushers and Tech Media Team



### **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.

**April 29 Isaiah 9 - 10:27**

**May 6 Isaiah Chapters 17, 18, 19:16-24**



**FELLOWSHIP HOUR BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS** will be held this Sunday **APRIL 30** immediately following Worship Service. If you are celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in April, 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.

**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.



## **This Week at Witherspoon**

Today	Worship - Elsie McKee preaching	10:00 AM
	<b>Birthdays/Anniversaries Fellowship</b>	After worship
Monday	Personnel Committee (via Zoom)	7:30 p.m.
	Church Life Committee (via Zoom)	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Verse Speaking Choir (Sanctuary)	6:30 PM
Wednesday	Sunday Worship Planning Group (via Zoom)	5:45 PM
Thursday	Men's Chorus Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	TBD
	Deacon Board Meeting (via Zoom)	7:30 p.m.
Friday		
Saturday	Saturday Morning Bible Study (via Zoom)	10:00 AM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	TBD
Next Sunday	Worship - Donald Pitches preaching <b>Celebration of the Lord's Supper</b> <b>Ordination/Installation of New Officers</b>	10:00 AM

# **Human Trafficking: Modern Slavery in New Jersey and the World**

a conversation with

**Heather Hadley,**

Supervising Assistant Prosecutor  
Mercer County Prosecutor's Human Trafficking Unit

**Spring Gathering**  
**Saturday, May 6 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**  
**United Presbyterian Church Yardville**  
12 Yardville Hamilton Sq. Rd., Trenton, NJ  
**All are invited**

Coffee at 9 a.m. followed by  
Worship, Business Meeting and Program  
Light lunch to follow

**Suggested donation \$8 per person**

Personal hygiene items accepted for Arm in Arm  
(soap, toothpaste, shampoo, feminine hygiene products)

Church is at the corner of Yardville-  
Hamilton Sq. Rd. and S. Broad St. Parking  
& entrance at rear of church off Waln Ave –  
additional parking available at Buklad-  
Merlino Funeral Home next to the church.  
**RSVP by April 30** to Gloria Hanewald at  
(609) 528-0511 or [glohanny@optimum.net](mailto:glohanny@optimum.net)

