

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.witherspoonchurch.org

Rev. Michael Livingston, Guest Preacher
Debra Jones-Peart, Lector
Edin Orellana, Sexton

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

October 15, 2023

10:00 a.m.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Piano Instrumental

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 23)

The Lord leads us like a shepherd.

God nourishes our lives and restores our souls.

The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.

God's goodness and mercy are always close.

GATHERING HYMN *Amazing Grace (My Chains
Are Gone)*

Chris Tomlin, John
Newton, Louie Giglio

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost but now I'm found

Was blind but now I see

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free

My God my Savior has ransomed me

And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love amazing grace

Verse 2

The Lord has promised good to me

**His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures**

Chorus

**My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace**

**My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace**

Verse 3

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of perfect love,
you continually bring forth life,
transforming sadness to joy,
and despair to hope.
We are weak, but you are strong.
Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true.
We are seldom right, but you are never wrong.
Forgive us, redeem us, transform us.
Take away the sin that burdens us,
and restore us to the people you would have us be,**

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Relentlessly God seeks us out.

With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out.

This is good news!

In Jesus Christ, 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!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Behold The Lamb

Kristian Stanfill,
Melodie Malone,
Phil Wickham

Verse 1

**See Him there the great I Am
A crown of thorns upon His head
The Father's heart displayed for us
O God we thank You for the cross**

Verse 2

**Lifted up on Calv'ry's hill
We cursed Your name and even still
You bore our shame and paid the cost
O God we thank You for the cross**

Chorus

**(Oh) Behold the Lamb the story of redemption
Written on His hands
Jesus You will reign forevermore**

**The victory is Yours
We sing Your praise
Endless hallelujahs to Your holy name
Jesus You will reign forevermore
The victory is Yours**

Verse 3

**Offer up this sacrifice
For ev'ry sin our Savior died
The Lord of Life can't be contained
Our God has risen from the grave
Oh our God has risen from the grave**

Chorus

**(Oh) Behold the Lamb the story of redemption
Written on His hands
Jesus You will reign forevermore
The victory is Yours
We sing Your praise
Endless hallelujahs to Your holy name
Jesus You will reign forevermore
The victory is Yours**

Verse 4

**When the age of death is done
We'll see Your face bright as the sun
We'll bow before the King of kings
O God forever we will sing**

Chorus

**(Oh) Behold the Lamb the story of redemption
Written on His hands
Jesus You will reign forevermore
The victory is Yours
(Oh) Behold the Lamb the story of redemption
Written on His hands
Jesus You will reign forevermore
The victory is Yours
We sing Your praise
Endless hallelujahs to Your holy name**

**Jesus You will reign forevermore
The victory is Yours**

**Ending
You reign forevermore
The victory is Yours
King Jesus reigns forevermore
The victory is Yours**

**Chorus
(Oh) Behold the Lamb the story of redemption
Written on His hands
Jesus You will reign forevermore
The victory is Yours
We sing Your praise
Endless hallelujahs to Your holy name
Jesus You will reign forevermore
The victory is Yours**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 30

- ¹I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
- ²O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.
- ³O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
- ⁴Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.
- ⁵For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
- ⁶As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."
- ⁷By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.
- ⁸To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

⁹“What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

¹⁰Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!”

¹¹You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

¹²so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

SECOND READING

Luke 10:1-11

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.

²He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’

⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’

SERMON

Peace, Joy, Work

Michael Livingston

PROFESSION OF FAITH

(from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick**

**and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Piano 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, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and the Lord of our lives. 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

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

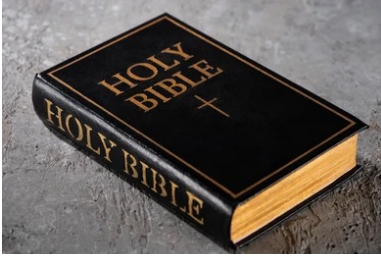
IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE

Our Ushers and Tech Media Team



GUEST PREACHER
REV. MICHAEL LIVINGSTON

Rev. Michael Livingston is the recently retired Interim Senior Minister at the Riverside Church in New York City. He was the National Public Policy Director for Interfaith Worker Justice and worked for the National Council of Churches as Director of its Anti-Poverty Program. Rev. Livingston began his ministry serving congregations in Los Angeles at St. Paul's United Presbyterian Church and in New York City at the Hollis Presbyterian Church. He spent fourteen years at Princeton Theological Seminary as, first, its Director of Admissions and then as Campus Pastor and Director of the Chapel. Rev. Livingston served as President of the National Council of Church, USA, 2006-07. Michael is the fortunate husband of Nancy Rucker Livingston--49 years this past July! He is the father of two, Aaron and Megan, and has two amazing grandchildren, Zahahia and Senai. Michael and Nancy worshipped at Witherspoon during their years in Princeton. Nancy taught 25 years at Littlebrook Elementary School.



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.

October 14 The Beatitudes

October 21 The Beatitudes



FELLOWSHIP HOUR BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS will be held **Sunday October 29** immediately following the Worship Service. If you are celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in October, 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!



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 starting next week** 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 and participating in the Robeson House 125th Anniversary program on October 15. 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.

For additional information and inspiration please contact the Witherspoon Office.

This Week at Witherspoon

Today	Worship - Guest Preacher Michael Livingston	10:00 AM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	11:30 AM
	Men's Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	12:30 PM
	Presbyterian Women Meeting (rescheduled)	1:00 PM
	Paul Robeson 125th Anniversary Concert (Nassau Presbyterian Church)	3:00 PM
Monday	Session Meeting (via Zoom)	7:00 PM
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
Next Sunday	Worship - Guest Preacher Yedea Walker	10:00 AM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	11:30 AM
	Men's Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	12:30 PM