

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

Emily Catherine Knoth, Guest Preacher
Debra Jones-Peart, Lector
Edin Orellana, Sexton

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

January 28, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

Organ Instrumental

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 111)

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.

**Great are your works, O Lord,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

GATHERING HYMN

I Will Trust In The Lord (AAHH #391)

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

Merciful God, in Jesus, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us,

compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace that day by day we might move closer to the people you would us be. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Relentlessly God seeks us out with abundant grace and boundless mercy.
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!

CHOIR ANTHEM

Halle Halle Halle

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Glory Glory Hallelujah (AAHH #500)
Living Hope, by Phil Wickham*

Verse 1

**How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope**

Verse 2

**Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory**

**To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope**

Chorus x 2

**Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope**

Verse 3

**Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa**

Chorus x 2

**Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope**

Ending

**Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope**

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

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone

who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

SECOND READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.” ²¹You may say to yourself, “How can we recognize a word that the Lord has not spoken?” ²²If a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord but the thing does not take place or prove true, it is a word that the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; do not be frightened by it.

SERMON

Prophets Old and New

Emily Catherine Knoth

PROFESSION OF FAITH

(from Colossians 1:15-20)

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
Jesus Christ is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,**

**whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. 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

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, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, 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 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

At The Cross (AAHH #264)

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

AMEN

Traditional

POSTLUDE

Organ Instrumental



Today's liturgy was created by John Wurster (The Presbyterian Outlook).

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

**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 are now **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
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).

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 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, THE HYBRID 2024 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83323584834?pwd=WmF1NjJITzg0VTlvWVBBS3U4OVJYQT09>

Meeting ID: 833 2358 4834

Passcode: 428282

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.

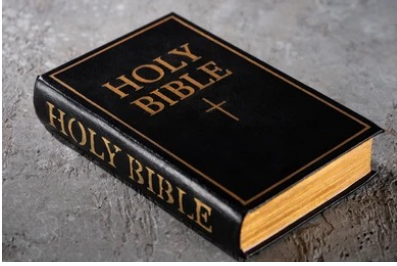


**GUEST PREACHER
EMILY CATHERINE KNOTH**

Emily is originally from Ohio but has lived in New Jersey for the last three years. She is in the fourth year of her dual degree program (Masters of Divinity and Masters in Christian Education and Formation) at Princeton Theological Seminary. She will be seeking a call as a PCUSA pastor in Kansas next summer.



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.



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.

January 27 I Corinthians 13 & 14

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!



PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount varies with the needs of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, and is a regular expense payable by this church at the spring meeting of presbytery. The amount to be paid this year per communicant member is

Name _____

The Hubbard Press

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