

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Yedea Walker, Guest Preacher
Bruce Campbell, Lector
Edin Orellana, Sexton

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

September 24, 2023

10:00 a.m.

17th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Piano Instrumental

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107:1-3, 43)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Let those who are wise give heed to these things,

and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Let us worship God!

GATHERING HYMN *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Jonathan Baird, Ryan Baird,
St. Francis of Assisi, William
Henry Draper

Verse 1

All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing

Oh praise Him

Alleluia

Thou burning sun with golden beam

Thou silver moon with softer gleam

Oh praise Him Oh praise Him

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 2

**Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness**

Oh praise Him

Alleluia

Praise praise the Father praise the Son

And praise the Spirit Three-in-One

Oh praise Him Oh praise Him

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 3

All the redeemed washed by His blood

Come and rejoice in His great love

Oh praise Him

Alleluia

Christ has defeated every sin

Cast all your burdens now on Him

Oh praise Him Oh praise Him

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 4

He shall return in pow'r to reign

Heaven and earth will join to say

Oh praise Him

Alleluia

Then who shall fall on bended knee

All creatures of our God and King

Oh praise Him Oh praise Him

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With that assurance and the promise of God's grace through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, forgive us when we grumble and complain against your goodness as the Israelites did in the desert, as the elder brother did to his father, as the workers in the field did to the landowner. We judge and weigh your gifts according to our standards. We often question

your fairness instead of receiving your grace with thanksgiving and joy. Help us to see your world through your eyes and with your spirit of generosity and grace, that we may welcome the chance to serve in your kingdom and all who join with us. Forgive us, Lord, in your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Psalm 145:9 and Ephesians 2:8-9)

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing;

it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia!

*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 ANTHEMS

*Great is Thy Faithfulness
He Knows My Name*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Holy God, your Word teaches us that all Scripture is inspired by you and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, speak to us, and inspire us that we may be proficient and equipped for every good work; through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

²Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

³Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SECOND READING

Matthew 20:1-16

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

PROFESSION OF FAITH

(from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone
we worship and serve.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask
idolatry in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude
to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying,
"Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Ordination and Installation of Michelle Seldon
Installation of Leslie Young**

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE (I Corinthians 12:4-7, 27)

There are varieties of gift,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.

This is our common calling, to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders, and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us. Through ordination, God provides for acts of care and compassion in the world, for the ordering and governance of the church, and for the preaching of the word and celebration of the sacraments.

Clerk of Session: Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, the session of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church now ordains Michelle Seldon to ministry as a Deacon and installs her to active service in this congregation. The session also installs to active service as a deacon, Leslie Young, who has been previously ordained.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Leslie and Michelle, in baptism, you were claimed by the love of God, clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ, and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to share Christ's mission in the world.

Now you are called by God through the voice of the church for new service and ministry in Jesus' name.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), show your commitment to this calling by responding to these questions:

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(to the congregation)

Do we, the members of the church, accept Leslie and Michelle as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

(All previously ordained, please come forward for the *Laying On of Hands*, which will happen half way through this prayer.)

PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you thanks and praise.

Throughout the ages and in every place you have chosen servants from among your people to point the way to salvation by your grace.

We are grateful for ancestors in the faith who followed without fear, placing their trust in you alone – for judges and monarchs who ruled in righteousness and peace; for prophets and apostles who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth; for leaders and teachers in every age who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness.

Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free. Anointed by your Holy Spirit, he proclaimed your reign on earth, revealing your saving love in all he said and did.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

(the prayer continues)

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon your servant Michelle, who you called by baptism as your own. Grant her the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

We also give you thanks for your servant Leslie as she continues in the ministry to which you have called her. Help her to rely on the gifts of your Spirit and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

Give them a spirit of truthfulness that they may show the compassion of Christ in the actions of daily living and rightly govern your people.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church, that we may be for you a holy people baptized to serve you in the world.

Sustain your church in ministry. Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ, strengthen our service to the outcast, and increase our love for one another.

Show us the transforming power of your grace in our life together, that we may be effective servants of the gospel, offering a compelling witness in the world to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

CHARGE TO THE NEWLY ORDAINED AND INSTALLED
(Hebrew 12:14)

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION (I Peter 4:8-11)

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

Take My Life (PH # 391)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.” Let us bring our offerings to God, even as we present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable 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

Gracious God, we know that every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from you. We thank you for your many blessings, especially your perfect gift of your Son Jesus Christ, your indescribable gift! Help us to receive your gifts and grace with thanksgiving and humility and to use them faithfully in and for your kingdom. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.
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

Give Me Jesus

Fernando Ortega

Verse 1

**In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
Give me Jesus**

Chorus

**Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
(But give me Jesus)**

Verse 2

**And when I am alone
Oh and when I am alone
And when I am alone
Give me Jesus**

Chorus

**Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus**

**You can have all this world
(But give me Jesus)**

Verse 3

**And when I come to die
Oh and when I come to die
And when I come to die
Give me Jesus**

Chorus

**Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
(But give me Jesus)**

Ending

**You can have all this world
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus**

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

AMEN

(PH #587)

POSTLUDE

Piano Instrumental

Today's liturgy was created by Philip Gladden (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
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. (witerspoon@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 (witerspoon@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

FROM BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

This coming week, our church will be having our existing buried oil tank removed and a new above ground oil tank installed. The work is expected to be completed before the end of the work week. During this time, there will be some disruptions around the perimeter of the church and possibly to the heating and hot water on the day of the new tank installation.



REV. YEDEA H. WALKER, J.D., M.DIV.

Rev. Yedea H. Walker currently serves as the Associate Dean of Student Life at Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Walker answered her spiritual calling into ordained pastoral ministry in 2013 and preached her initial sermon, “Identity Crisis”, on June 9, 2013. In April of 2017, Rev. Walker was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal (“A.M.E.”) Church; and in March of 2019, Rev. Walker was ordained an Itinerant Elder in the A.M.E. Church.

Rev. Walker holds a Master’s of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, in Princeton, NJ; a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, AR; and a Bachelor of Arts in English Language Arts from Grambling State University in Grambling, LA., Rev. Walker is the mother of one a purpose-driven daughter, Olivia Anaya-Faith Walker. Ever grateful for the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the guiding presence Of the Holy Spirit, and the love of God, the Word, and all of God’s children, Rev. Walker leans into the scripture found in Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”