

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.witherspoonchurch.org

Dr. Elsie A. McKee, Guest Preacher
Tracy Eskridge, Lector
Edin Orellana, Sexton

Fumi Nakamae Korodan, Director of Music
Dr. Cecelia Hodges, Director, Verse Speaking Choir
Cynthia Parker, Office Manager

June 18, 2023

10:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Piano Instrumental

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 100)

Let all creation sing with gladness;

Make a joyful noise to the Creator!

Come and abide with the One who formed us;

Make a joyful noise to the Creator!

Give thanks, and praise, and bless God's name;

Make a joyful noise to God!

GATHERING HYMN

Hold to God's Unchanging Hands (AAHH #404)

Chorus

Hold to God's unchanging hand

Hold to God's unchanging hand

Build your hopes on things eternal

Hold to God's unchanging hand

Verse 1

Time is filled with swift transition

Naught of earth unmoved can stand

Build your hopes on things eternal

Hold to God's unchanging hand

Verse 2

Trust in Him who will not leave you

**Whatsoever years may bring
If by earthly friends forsaken
Still more closely to Him cling**

Verse 3

**Covet not this world's vain riches
That so rapidly decay
Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures
They will never pass away**

Verse 4

**When your journey is completed
If to God you have been true
Fair and bright the home in glory
Your enraptured soul will view**

CALL TO CONFESSION (written by Elsie's father Rev. Charles Ngulumingi McKee)

Confession is saying what we believe. When we trust someone, we can speak honestly. Let us now say aloud something of what lies in our hearts.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Rev. Charles Ngulumingi McKee)

Spirit of Truth, Holy Spirit: You show me how I grieve you by

Ignoring Your gifts,

Failing to ask You for the guidance I need,

Failing to love those You love and want to bless,

Failing to trust You in difficulties and trying to do it all on my own,

Failing to recognize Your saving grace and to give You thanks and credit for all,

Being impatient with sisters and brothers,

Complaining about the evil in the world without looking to You to save the world and me, working the changes needed in me,

My reluctance to faithfully use all the gifts and means of grace You provide.

You also know the sins I do not recognize.

We commit ourselves to Your wise and loving care to change us and make us useful, fruitful children in our Father's family.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Rev. Charles Ngulumingi McKee)

God's love patiently works as the transformation, repeating lessons as we need them, always offering us the assurance that His love is not going to run out! We have but to accept and acknowledge it gratefully. And this becomes one of the fruits or proofs of that working.

We love back, we acknowledge our need for continued work of the Spirit, and we give thanks for God's love. Thanks be to God!

*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!

VERSE SPEAKING CHOIR

*Dad's Toolbox, anonymous
The Love of Father, anonymous
Our Father Who Art in Heaven*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom, speak again your liberating Word to us today. By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured into our hearts, make us ready and willing to respond to your call to us today. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:9-13, 21:1-7

18 ⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The Lord said to

Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’

21 ¹The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

SECOND READING

Matthew 9:35-38, 10:16-23

9 ³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

10 ¹⁶“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

SERMON *Abraham and Sarah, Family Conflicts,
Sheep and Fathers*

Elsie McKee

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from A Declaration of Faith)

We worship God in the world by standing before the Lord in behalf of all people.

Our cries for help and our songs for praise are never for ourselves alone.

We serve humankind by discerning what God is doing in the world and joining in God's work.

We find guidance in God's deeds in the past and promises for the future, as they are witnessed to in Scripture.

We affirm that the Lord is at work, especially in movements that free people by the gospel and advance justice, compassion and peace.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Jesus sent the disciples, empty-handed, to carry out his work, trusting in God's provision for their needs. We give out of our abundance to continue the work of Jesus Christ in the world today. In faith and hope, let us offer our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness (AAHH #158)

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness

Morning by morning

New mercies I see

All I have needed

Thy hand hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness

Lord unto me

Verse 1

Great is Thy faithfulness

O God my Father

There is no shadow

Of turning with Thee

Thou changest not

Thy compassions they fail not

As Thou hast been

Thou forever wilt be

Verse 2
Summer and winter
And springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars
In their courses above
Join with all nature
In manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness
Mercy and love

Verse 3
Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence
To cheer and to guide
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine
With ten thousand beside

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

Liberating God, use these gifts to transform the world, to bring about your justice, peace and reconciliation for all creation. Transform us as we offer them, to be partners and co-creators of your beloved kin-dom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The History of Fathers and Tribute to Our Fathers

Brian Delk

SPECIAL HYMN

Faith Our Fathers (AAHH #409)

Verse 1
Faith of our fathers living still
In spite of dungeon fire and sword
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word

Chorus

**Faith of our fathers holy faith
We will be true to thee till death**

Verse 2

**Our fathers chained in prisons dark
Were still in heart and conscience free
How sweet would be their children's fate
If they like them could die for Thee**

Verse 3

**Faith of our fathers we will strive
To win all nations unto Thee
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then be truly free**

Verse 4

**Faith of our fathers we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife
And preach Thee too as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life**

ANNOUNCEMENTS / INVITATION TO FELLOWSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING HYMN

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

Verse 1

**What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace**

**To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me**

Verse 2

**The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Savior he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed**

**To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me**

Verse 3

**No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave**

**To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me**

Verse 4

**With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne**

**To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me**

Ending

**When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me**

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

AMEN

Traditional

Today's liturgy was created by Elsie McKee and Stephanie Sorg (*The Presbyterian Outlook*).

**OFFICE HOURS 112 WITHERSPOON STREET
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 – 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).

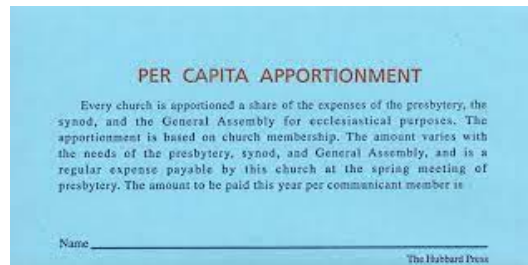
IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE

Our Ushers and our Tech Media Team

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



2023 PER CAPITA \$40

Mail to 112 Witherspoon St., Princeton NJ 08542
or pay on-line <http://bit.ly/WSPCGive>

WSPC CHURCH PICNIC



West Windsor Community Park on Brent Midland Blvd.

SUNDAY, JULY 16th AT 10 A.M.



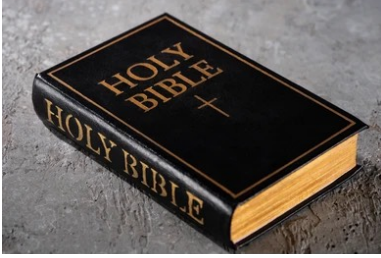
GUEST PREACHER ELSIE MCKEE

Elsie Tshimunyi McKee was born and reared in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in central Africa. She was the Archibald Alexander Professor of Reformation Studies and the History of Worship at Princeton Theological Seminary for 29 years and continues to be a member of Witherspoon St. Presbyterian Church. Since retiring, she has worked with Woman, Cradle of Abundance, Inc., the non-profit organization she and PTS friends established in 2013.



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 June, 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).



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.

June 17 Isaiah 45 & 46

June 24 Cancelled



FELLOWSHIP HOUR BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS will be held **next Sunday June 25** immediately following Worship Service. If you are celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in June, 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 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!

Please contact our office at 609-924-1666 to share your gifts with Witherspoon!



- June 16 and 17 - Mercer County-wide celebration of [Juneteenth at the Mercer County Fairgrounds](#)
- June 17 - 12 to 8 PM [Mercer County Celebration](#)
- June 18, 10-12 [The Civil Rights Commission is hosting a panel discussion.](#) moderated by Miles Smith. @ Princeton Public Library
- June 19 | 12pm Flag Raising @ Monument Hall
- June 19 | 2pm Art Against Racism: Beyond Freedom @ Morven Museum
- June 19 | 7pm Will Liverman Performance (Free Tickets using the code JUNETEENTH) Morven Museum 55 Stockton Street <https://www.visitprinceton.org/event/will-liverman-vocal-recital/18686/>
- June 19 - Romus Broadway Photo Camp Event <https://artscouncilofprinceton.org/romus-broadway-photography/>
- June 16th to 19th - [Princeton University Juneteenth](#) Featuring Dr. Eddie Glaude and Dr. Tera Hunter
- [The Smithsonian National Museum of History and Culture Juneteenth Celebrations](#)

This Week at Witherspoon

Today	Worship - Guest Preacher Elsie McKee	10:00 AM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Cancelled	11:30 AM
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Sunday Worship Planning Group (via Zoom)	5:45 PM
Thursday	Worship & Music Committee (via Zoom)	5:45 PM
Friday		
Saturday	Saturday Morning Bible Study Cancelled	10:00 AM
Next Sunday	Worship - Guest Preacher Lissette Gonzalez Sosa	10:00 AM
	Birthdays/Anniversaries Fellowship	11:00 AM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	11:30 AM
	Chancel Committee (via Zoom)	12:00 PM



**The return of
Kingston Presbyterian Church's
Blueberry Festival 2023**

Saturday, June 24th 5:00-7:30pm

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for free desserts, pony rides and face painting. Explore the Fire Company #1's equipment, thank our local first responders and learn some of our history looking over KPC's artifacts. Come for the blueberry treats, stay for the live music and fellowship.

We are celebrating 300 years of loving God & loving our neighbors.
We look forward to celebrating with you!

Kingston Presbyterian Church, 4561 Route 27, Kingston, NJ 08528,
kingstonpresbyterian.org

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

NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Chancel Drama Week

rising grades 3-12

volunteer positions for older youth and adults

MON-FRI, AUG 7-11 12:30-4:30 PM
SUNDAY, AUG 13, 10 AM WORSHIP

In one week, we will stage this exciting Old Testament story/musical. Join us, as we discover a powerful message – the smallest person acting bravely can make an enormous difference, for God has placed us where we are for a reason.

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

MALICE
IN THE
PALACE

CHANCEL DRAMA
August 7-11 & 13 / Nassau Presbyterian Church