

# WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
August 24, 2025 | 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

The sound of bells summons us to gather for worship.

### Preparation for Worship

*Merciful God, you brought us from the rest of last night to the new light of this day, now let your Holy Spirit guide us as we worship you. Amen.*

### Call to Worship

Hymn 380 God Is Our Help, Refuge, and Strength  
*all singing English*

Eric Wall

Psalm 46

### \*Hymn 402 How Lovely, Lord

MERLE'S TUNE

### \*Confession and Pardon

Anne Galliher

**In you, Holy God, we live and move and have our being.  
You love, sustain, bless, comfort, and heal us.  
You are our God and we are your people.**

**Yet we struggle to live this truth.  
We choose our own paths, cling to half-truths,  
ignore suffering, and silence your Spirit within us.**

**Forgive us, Living God. Rekindle in us your passion,  
burn away what keeps us from you,  
and fill us with the love, compassion, and joy of Jesus.  
Amen.**

**In Jesus Christ you are loved and accepted, forgiven and freed.  
Thanks be to God!**

### \*Peace

**The peace of Christ be with you all.  
And also with you.**

### \*Response

Hymn 583 (Taizé)



Tree of Hope ©2013 by Julie Leuthold

\* Asterisks invite us  
to rise in body or spirit.

**Words in bold** are for  
everyone to say or sing.

These two hymns call us to worship with words from the psalms. “God Is Our Help” —Psalm 46—combines responsive reading and a plaintive sung refrain. “How Lovely, Lord”—Psalm 84—is set to an expansive tune by recently deceased composer Hal H. Hopson. Both hymns envision what the writer to the Hebrews calls, in today’s text, “the city of the living God.”

As with other choruses from the ecumenical French community Taizé, this short song’s concise text gains power with repeated singing.

WORSHIP | EMBRACE | SERVE

*in the manner of Christ*

## Christian Welcome and Announcements

*Please pass the Friendship Register to your neighbor and include all requested information.*

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### Sacrament of Baptism

*Young children are invited to come forward for the baptisms.*

*Following our time together, children will return to the pews for the remainder of the service.*

(9:30) Mary Scott Hale and Kathryn James Hale, children of Mackenzie and Rob Hale

(11:00) Philip Salters Lott, child of Lea and Cooper Lott

This buoyant short song—491 in *Glory to God*—enables us to sing to a newly baptized child of God and then to sing to each other the remembrance of our own baptism.



### Prayer for Illumination

### First Reading Luke 13:10-17

pew Bible p. 71

### Anthem

American Folk Hymn,  
arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw

Brief, buoyant, and mysterious, this I Will Arise anthem is based on a southern United States shape-note hymn. The singer, like the daughter of Abraham in Luke's gospel, rises and looks to God.

I will arise and go to Jesus – he will embrace me in his arms.  
In the arms of my dear Savior, oh! there are ten thousand charms.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it: mount of thy redeeming love.  
Come, thou fount of every blessing – tune my heart to sing thy grace.  
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.

### Second Reading Hebrews 12:18-29

pew Bible p. 213

The word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon Playing With Fire

Tom Harris

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Hymn 792 There Is a Balm in Gilead *all singing refrain*

BALM IN GILEAD

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Jim Ferry

This spiritual, well-known and widely beloved, invites us to prayer by answering the question posed in Jeremiah 8:22, "Is there no balm in Gilead?"

**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.**

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

A Mighty Fortress

by Charles Ore, composer

\*Hymn 647 Give Thanks

GIVE THANKS

\*Affirmation of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
the holy, good, and loving fire of God.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free from all that binds us,  
and unites us with all believers in the one body of Christ.  
The same Spirit whose flame consumed the prophets and apostles  
continues to cleanse us through the Word proclaimed,  
the waters of baptism, the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world,  
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing  
and to unmask idolatries in Church and culture and ourselves.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives.  
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.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn 19 God of Great and God of Small

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Chiming of the Trinity

\*Postlude Sonata No. 2 – Allegro moderato

Felix Mendelssohn, composer

Today's Hebrews text ends with this exhortation: "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude..." Two songs—one sung by the organ, the second by the congregation—lift up that steadfastness and thanksgiving.

Music in today's service presented with permission under  
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## WELCOME TO WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC (USA)

We are glad you are worshipping with us.  
Visiting? Deacons can be found in the Narthex  
to offer a friendly greeting, answer  
questions and provide directions.  
New members are received after attending  
*Believing & Belonging @WMPC* Class.  
Visit [whitememorial.org/join](http://whitememorial.org/join)  
or contact Elizabeth Viohl at ext. 206  
for details, class dates and registration.

### THINGS TO KNOW:

- **Restrooms** are located on the hallway to Jane Bell Gathering Space on the Pulpit side and also on the first floor of the Luther Building.
- **Childcare** is available for children up to four years old.
- **Sunday School** will resume September 7, 2025.
- **Refreshments** and coffee stations are located in The Connector and Main Hall
- **Loop hearing aid system and an FM system available in the Sanctuary.**
- **Live-streamed services** are at [whitememorial.org](http://whitememorial.org).
- **Bulletins** left in the sanctuary following worship services are recycled as part of our care for God's creation.



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

### STAFF:

**CHRISTOPHER EDMONSTON**, Pastor  
**CYNTHIA BAGGETT**, Director of Weekday School  
**GENEVIEVE BROOKS**, Director of Family Ministry  
**CATE CHURCH NORMAN**, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
**CLAIRE COX-WOODLIEF**, Executive Director  
**BROCK DOWNWARD**, Dir. of Music Emeritus  
**JENNIFER EASTMAN**, Director of Young Children's Ministry  
**JIM FERRY**, Parish Associate  
**ANNE GALLIHER**, Associate Pastor for Small Groups & Young Adults  
**KELLY GOLD**, Director of Children's and Youth Music  
**TOM HARRIS**, Parish Associate  
**MARTHA GROVE HIPSKIND**, Health Ministry Coordinator  
**KATHY HOWELL**, Communications Director  
**LEE HUNTER**, Pastoral Resident  
**BAILEY MORTON**, Director of Youth Ministry  
**ERIC NANZ**, Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts  
**LINDA NUNNALLEE**, Director of Community Engagement  
**GRIER BOOKER RICHARDS**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Adult Faith Formation  
**ART ROSS**, Pastor Emeritus  
**JUDY YATES SIKER**, Parish Associate  
**LYNN SPRINGFIELD**, Director of Elementary Ministry  
**COLISHA C. STANFORD**, StepUp Director  
**MARTHA STEVENSON**, Educator Emerita  
**ERIC WALL**, Director of Music

AFTER HOURS PASTOR ON CALL: 919-605-4593

Each Sunday we offer three opportunities for you to worship with us at White Memorial in the Sanctuary and OnPoint@1704 in the Main Hall. While you will notice differences in music, location, and worship leadership among our different services, what unites us in our worship is our scripture, liturgy, and sermon. All services use the same Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, readings from Scripture, and Affirmation of Faith.

## JOYS & CONCERNS

### IN THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

**Deborah "Debbie" Hawkins** - August 16, 2025

WMPC family member: husband, Bill Hawkins

### PRAYERS AND CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

**Hedge Hedgpeth and family** on the death of his wife,  
Marilyn Turner Hedgpeth, July 23, Winston-Salem, NC

### NEW PRESBYTERIANS

**Jack Sterling Scott, IV**, July 24, child of Reynolds and Jack Scott



[Scan or click here to submit a prayer request.](#)

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY | AUGUST 24

*Luke 13:10-17; Hebrews 12:18-29*

#### Sunday School Leaders' Orientation

3:00 p.m. | The Hub

### MONDAY | AUGUST 25

*Psalms 10; Jeremiah 7:1-15; Hebrews 3:7-4:11*

#### Pickleball at WMPC!

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall

### TUESDAY | AUGUST 26

*Psalms 10; Jeremiah 7:16-26; Revelation 3:7-13*

#### Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Breakfast | 7:00 a.m. | Geneva Hall

Bible Study | 7:30 a.m.

#### Women's Breakfast & Fellowship

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. | The Hub

Women of all ages are invited to a hot breakfast, fellowship, study, and prayer.

### WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 27

*Psalms 10; Jeremiah 7:27-34; Luke 6:6-11*

#### Pickleball at WMPC!

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall

### THURSDAY | AUGUST 28

*Psalms 81:1, 10-16; Jeremiah 11:1-17; 1 Peter 3:8-12*

### FRIDAY | AUGUST 29

*Psalms 81:1, 10-16; Jeremiah 12:1-13; 1 Peter 4:7-11*

#### Pickleball at WMPC!

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall

### SATURDAY | AUGUST 30

*Psalms 81:1, 10-16; Jeremiah 2:1-3, 14-22; Matthew 20:20-28*

Campus closed for Labor Day holiday

#### Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Youth Worship Band Registrations Now Open

[whitememorial.org/register](http://whitememorial.org/register)

#### Confirmation Registration Open

[whitememorial.org/register](http://whitememorial.org/register)

#### High School Beach Retreat Registration Open

[whitememorial.org/register](http://whitememorial.org/register)

#### Interested in ushering?

We are in need of ushers at all Sunday services, particularly the 11:00 service. If you are able and willing to serve as an usher from time to time, please contact Mabel Pace at [mpace58@gmail.com](mailto:mpace58@gmail.com).

#### A/V Volunteers Needed

Whether you're a youth or a retiree, we need volunteers who are curious, committed, and ready to learn. You'll help with cameras, sound, and/or visual presentations to make worship come alive. We'll provide all the training you need, and you'll gain valuable skills and confidence along the way. The time commitment is up to you. If you want to make a real difference in how our church connects with people, this is for you. Join a team that's creative, essential, and deeply rewarding. To learn more and sign up for training, contact Gabe Spivey at [gspivey@whitememorial.org](mailto:gspivey@whitememorial.org)

#### Boy Scouts and 4th-Grade Webelos Program

White Memorial is the chartered organization for Pack 395 and Troop 395. The Pack consists of 4th- and 5th- grade Webelos, a preparatory program that enables boys to immediately excel when transitioning to Boy Scouts (the Troop). Our Scouting program is one of the largest and most active in the district. We have places for starting 4th graders in Webelos or 6th graders in Troop 395. Church members and siblings of current Scouts are given priority for the spaces we have available in Webelos. If you are interested please contact Steve Vinson at [svinson@magnoliadevco.com](mailto:svinson@magnoliadevco.com).

#### Gifting appreciated stock or IRA distributions

Gifting appreciated stock or IRA distributions are great ways to make your contributions to the church. Please contact Jody Grayson at [jgrayson@whitememorial.org](mailto:jgrayson@whitememorial.org) with your gifting details, or for more information.

#### Combined Holiday Worship

Sunday | August 31

9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Main Hall

#### Church Facilities Closed for Labor Day

Monday | September 1

Church facilities will be closed Monday in observance of Labor Day

#### Shuttle Service Resumes

Sunday | September 7 | Kickoff Sunday

#### WMPC Women's Circles + Luncheon

Monday | September 8 | Main Hall

#### Cancer Companions

Tuesday | September 9

#### Servant Saturday + Pancake Breakfast

Saturday | September 13

Want to flip some pancakes and spread some joy? We need volunteers for the Pancake Breakfast on September 13. Sign up to here to help: [whitememorial.org/register](http://whitememorial.org/register). Childcare available.

# God Is Our Help, Refuge, and Strength 380

하나님은 피난처요

(Psalm 46)

Refrain / 후렴



God is our help, ref-uge, and strength. In trou-bling times, we will not fear.

만 군의 주 하 나 님 이 우리 합 께 계 시 리 니



God is our help, ref-uge, and strength. In trou-bling times, we will not fear.

야 - 곱 의 하 나 님 은 우리 들 의 피 난 처 라

## PSALM 46

### Refrain

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**
- 3 though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.  
**The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Refrain**
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 **God is in the midst of the city;  
it shall not be overthrown;  
God shall help it at the break of day.**
- 6 The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 **The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Refrain**
- 8 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,  
what awesome things God has done on earth.
- 9 **It is the LORD who makes war to cease in all the world,  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.**
- 10 "Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."
- 11 **The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Refrain**

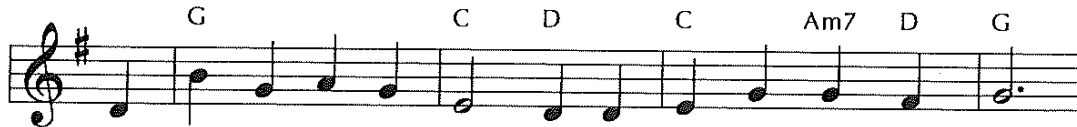
The English refrain consists of a twice-sung condensed paraphrase of Psalm 46:1-3. It works well, either alone or with a responsive reading, because it states so concisely the general theme illustrated by the list of natural and political calamities making up the rest of the psalm.

## How Lovely, Lord

(Psalm 84)



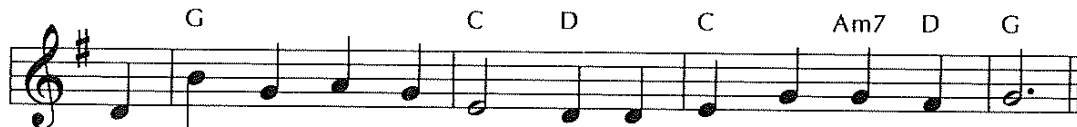
1 How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;  
 2 In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day  
 3 A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O Lord Most High;



my soul is long-ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.  
 is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.  
 you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;  
 I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord  
 The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.  
 than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.  
 and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

The author of this text, a Presbyterian minister and educator, was humming this tune as he began to create a paraphrase of Psalm 84 that would emphasize the beauty and peace of God's house. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.



## There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

*Fine.*

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but  
2 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and  
3 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

*to Refrain*

then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain. There is a  
if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a  
tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

*Repeat stanza, then sing refrain*

I am wine, I am bread: give to all who thirst and hun-ger.  
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy-ful gos-pel.

Originally created in the Sotho language, this ecstatic South African hymn reached English by way of a Swedish translation and is now found in numerous hymnals. It can serve as a powerful sending hymn for connecting what happens at the Lord's Table with our mission in the world.



647

## Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

TEXT: Henry Smith, 1978, alt.

MUSIC: Henry Smith, 1978

Text and Music © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

GIVE THANKS

Irregular

# God of Great and God of Small 19



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,  
 2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,  
 3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,  
 4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,  
 God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,  
 God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,  
 God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

## Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

Although it uses remarkably simple language, this text affirms a great mystery: beyond all our powers of explanation, God holds together all the opposites that seem to pull us in one direction or another. Yet God is present to them all and also to us; for that we give praise.

TEXT: Natalie Sleeth, 1973

MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1973; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012

Text and Music © 1973 Carl Fischer, Inc.

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

7.7.7.7 with refrain