

WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 21, 2025 | 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

The sound of bells summons us to gather for worship.

Preparation for Worship

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude What a Friend We Have in Jesus

arr. Mitchell Eithun
Handbell choir
Tina Persson, flute

*Call to Worship

Jim Ferry

Give praise, you servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
Amen! Amen! Amen! Amen! Amen!

Let the name of the Lord be blessed
from this time forth forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to its going down,
let the name of the Lord be praised.
The Lord is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.
The Lord takes the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.
Give praise, you servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.

*Hymn 399 God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

*Confession and Pardon

Compassionate God, we admit that our priorities are often out of order. We find ways to skirt around your commandments, and we try to make your mandates a little easier for us to follow. We don't always steward our resources as we ought, and we make an idol of money and what it brings – goods, possessions, power, "success," comfort – instead of worshiping the One who has given all to us. Forgive us, God, and help set our priorities in order, striving for your topsy-turvy Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*Peace

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



The *Shrewd Manager* by Kazakhstan artist Nelly Bube

* Asterisks invite us
to rise in body or spirit.

Words in bold are for
everyone to say or sing.

A rousing South African chorus helps to open our worship. Known as the Themba Amen, it also lives as a hymn with a text by John Bell affirming the expansive love of God. It is a hymn whose singing gains strength in repetition.

WORSHIP | EMBRACE | SERVE

in the manner of Christ

*Response Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Hymn 582

Christian Welcome and Announcements

Bailey Morton & Paige Hokunson

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

A Time with Young Disciples (11:00)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

organ chorale prelude by J. S. Bach

Blessed Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith draw near you.
By your gospel true and holy,
teach us Lord, to love you solely.

First Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-7

pew Bible p. 200

Second Reading Luke 16:1-13

pew Bible p. 74

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

Sermon Two Masters

Christopher Edmonston

*Hymn 465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cate Church Norman

**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.**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

arr. M. Hogan

In the Lord, in the Lord—my soul's been anchored in the Lord.
Before I'd stay in hell one day, I'd sing and pray myself away.
In the Lord, in the Lord—my soul's been anchored in the Lord.
Goin' shout and pray and never stop until I reach the mountaintop.
In the Lord, in the Lord—my soul's been anchored in the Lord.
Do you love Him? Hallelujah!
God Almighty. Oh yes!
Are you anchored? Will you serve Him? Will you praise Him?
My soul's been anchored in the Lord.

***Response** Themba Amen

THEMBA AMEN

***Affirmation**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

**Jesus lived with a constant sense of his Father's presence.
He put God's claim on his life above all else.
He joined others in God's worship and praise.
He drew strength from the Scriptures.
He prayed and taught his disciples to pray.**

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives
that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule.
Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self,
family, race or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability and time.**

**It is part of our discipleship to observe a day of worship and rest,
setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work,
celebrating with sisters and brothers the Lord's goodness.
We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture,
not expecting detailed directions for every decision,
but relying on the Word to tell us who God is,
to press God's present claim on us,
and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.**

**We are charged to pray for ourselves and others with gratitude, boldness,
and persistence, confident that God hears and answers our prayers
in ways best for us all.**

**Life in God's presence issues in life for others,
for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see,
we cannot love God whom we do not see.**

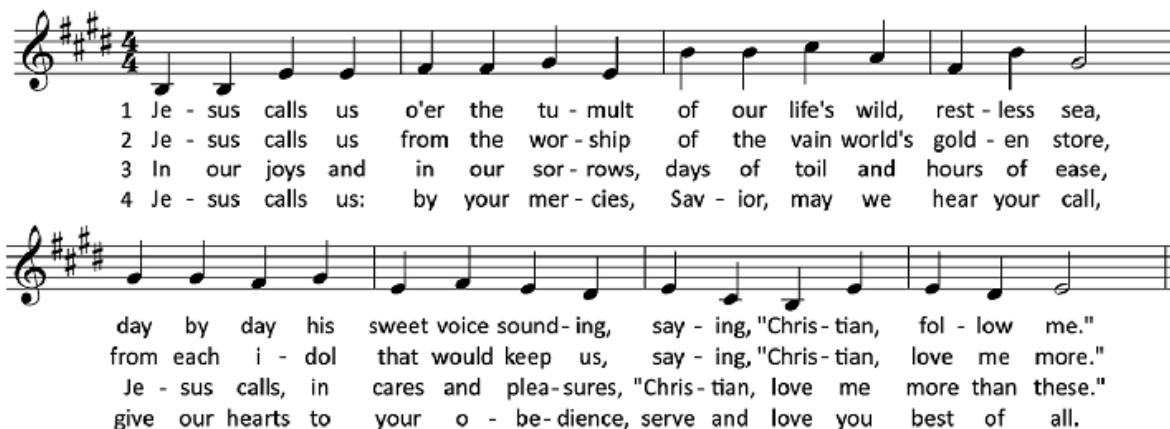
This affirmation is adapted from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977), and was chosen this Sunday for its emphasis on how we ought to arrange our priorities according to God's will, reflecting the themes from our Scripture today. It also reminds us that Scripture does not give us every answer to every problem, but must be faithfully interpreted.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

This hymn's text began life as a children's hymn, though its imagery speaks to the seasons and experiences of life, praying for our attentiveness to God's call. We sing it today, at the suggestion of Eric Nanz, our Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts, to a tune not usually associated with it but which echoes the strength of the words.

*Hymn Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

STUTT GART



1 Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest - less sea,
2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the vain world's gold - en store,
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
4 Je - sus calls us: by your mer - cies, Sav - ior, may we hear your call,
day by day his sweet voice sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
from each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
give our hearts to your o - be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

*Charge & Benediction

*Chiming of the Trinity

*Postlude Festal Flourish

Gordon Jacob, composer

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

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.



WELCOME TO WHITE MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC (USA)

We're so glad you are
worshipping with us today.

Visiting?

Deacons are in the Narthex
to offer a friendly greeting,
answer questions, and provide
directions.

Looking to Become a Member?

New members are received
after attending the *Believing &
Belonging @WMPC* class.
Visit whitememorial.org/join or
contact Elizabeth Viohl at
ext. 206 for class dates,
registration, and details.

Things to Know Restrooms

Hallway to Jane Bell Gathering
Space (Pulpit side) and first floor
of the Luther Building.

Childcare

Available for children
up to 4 years old.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m. for all ages.

Refreshments & Coffee

The Connector and Main Hall.

Hearing Assistance

Loop system and FM system
available in the Sanctuary.

AED/Narcan Locations

WMPC campus has five AED/
Narcan locations around
campus: Narthex- Sanctuary,
Main Hall-Edinburgh,
Lobby-Ross, Lobby-Calvin,
3rd floor-Luther

Live Streaming

Services available at
whitememorial.org.
Facebook & YouTube

Bulletins

Recycled after services as part
of our care for God's creation.



JOYS & CONCERNS

NEW PRESBYTERIANS

Lucy Snow Haywood, September 5, child of Allison and John Haywood,
grandchild of Sarah and Paul Cranfill

MARRIAGES

Keely Jacobs Jackson and Kyle James Keelan, September 12, Littleton, NC

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Morgie and David Duke on the birth of their grandchild, Madeleine McKinstry Duke,
August 9, child of Katy and John Duke, Asheville, NC

If you have experienced a birth, marriage or death you want to share with the church,
email Lisa Crumpler at lcrumpler@whitememorial.org

If you have a relative or church friend who is hospitalized,
call the Pastoral Care line 919-834-3425, ext. 210 or email Caroline Parker
at cparker@whitememorial.org so our pastoral staff can reach out.

If you have a pastoral care need outside of regular business hours,
call our after-hours pastor on call at 919-605-4593.

...READY FOR IT?
NEW PODCAST SERIES DROPS
9.29.25 | 6:00 a.m.

DON'T FORGET YOUR FLU SHOT

Thursday | September 25

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | K200

Wednesday | October 1

4:00-6:00 p.m. | K200

Don't let flu season catch you off guard! All
members and staff are invited to come get
their flu shot. You must be at least 7 years
old to receive a flu shot at White Memorial
Presbyterian Church. Please bring your
insurance card.



ANNOUNCING LGBTQ+ SUPPORT

Monday | September 22
7:00 p.m. | Chapel

We're pleased to announce
a new group for LGBTQ+ support at White
Memorial. This group is called ALL ARE
WELCOME and will provide fellowship and
a safe space for LGBTQ+ adults. Our first
gathering of ALL ARE WELCOME will be
Monday, September 22 at 7:00 PM in the
Chapel. For more information, contact Kathy
Hart, hartmusic1@gmail.com or Lee Hunter,
lhunter@whitememorial.org.

Join Us
for

MUSIC FROM UNC: FROM BAROQUE TO ROMANTIC

Sunday | September 21 | 2025
Sanctuary | 3:00 pm

Our season opens on **Sunday, September 21 at 3:00 p.m. in
the Sanctuary** with *Music from UNC From Baroque to Romantic*,
featuring works by J. S. Bach and Amy Beach. Performing will
be acclaimed UNC musicians Brooks de Wetter-Smith, flute;
Timothy Sparks, tenor; Debbie Davis, cello; Mike Harris, organ
continuo; and Clara Yang, piano. A reception will follow in the
Jane Bell Gathering Space. Admission is free; donations to
support future concerts are warmly welcomed.



FILM SCREENING

FROM PBS'S AMERICAN EXPERIENCE SERIES



SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 28
4:30 - 6:30 P.M.
MAIN HALL

Join the MORE Ministry
Team on Sunday, September
28, at 4:30 p.m. in the Main Hall for a screening
of *American Coup: Wilmington 1898*, part of
PBS's American Experience. The film explores
the violent overthrow of Wilmington's multiracial
government and its lasting impact, with music by
Rhiannon Giddens and narration by Emmy Award-
winner Keith David. A Reflection Guide will be
provided to enrich your viewing.

WHITEMEMORIAL.ORG/REGISTER

A Snapshot of What's Happening This Week at WMPC

Sunday, September 21

1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

- **Sounds on Oberlin Concert**
Music from UNC
From Baroque to Romantic
3:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Monday, September 22

Psalm 106:40-48; Jeremiah 9

- **Bridge With Friends**
1:00 p.m. | The Hub
- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall
- **Tai Chi**
5:30 p.m. | Pickard Hall
- **All Are Welcome**
7:00 p.m. | Chapel

Tuesday, September 23

Psalm 106:40-48; Jeremiah 10:1-16

- **Men's Breakfast/Bible Study**
7:00 a.m. | Geneva Hall
- **Women's Breakfast/Circle M**
7:00 a.m. | The Connector
- **Gentle Yoga**
8:30 a.m. | C200
- **Cancer Companions**
6:30 p.m. | Virtual
- **WMPC Mahjong Night**
7:00 p.m. | Offsite (full)

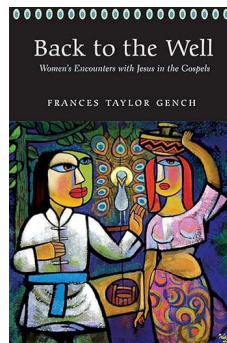
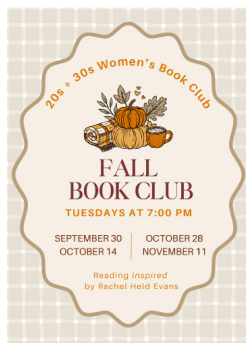
Wednesday, September 24

Psalm 106:40-48; Jeremiah 10:17-25

- **Chair Yoga**
10:00 a.m. | C200
- **Lectio Divino**
11:00 a.m. | Virtual
- **Yin Yoga**
11:15 a.m. | C200
- **Centering Prayer**
11:30 a.m. | Virtual
- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall
- **Wednesday Together Dinner**
5:00-6:30 p.m. | Main Hall

For more information about any of these events, please visit our website whitememorial.org or call the church office 919-834-3424.

Engagement and Faith Fellowship



20s + 30s WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Are you in your 20s + 30s? Consider joining the Women's Book Club which meets offsite on Tuesday September 30, October 14 & 28 and November 11 at 7:00 p.m. At our first gathering we begin reading *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. Questions? Contact Anne Galliher at agalliher@whitememorial.org.

JESUS ENCOUNTERS BOOK CLUB

Join Pastoral Resident Lee Hunter and the "Jesus Encounters Book Club" as they read *Back to the Well* by Frances Taylor Gench. This group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in R400. Our first meeting will be October 16. Come join us either in person or by Zoom. If you'd like to know more, contact Lee at lhunter@whitememorial.org.

COME PLAY BRIDGE WITH FRIENDS

Monday | September 22 | 1:00 p.m. | The Hub

Whether you are experienced, a beginner or want to learn how to play we invite you to join us! We'll practice different bridge hands, talk bidding, and enjoy fun and fellowship. For more information and to find out when we are gathering next contact Judy Bundy at judybundy7@gmail.com or Mary Grace White at marygrace623@yahoo.com.

MAHJONG NIGHT AT RALEIGH CHEESY

Tuesday | September 23 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Raleigh Cheesy

Come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship playing mahjong at Raleigh Cheesy! Cost is \$10 per person. Please bring your own card. **Group is full.** Contact Beth Moore at bmoore@whitememorial.org to be added to the waiting list.



GREENSBORO AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY PILGRIMAGE

Saturday | October 18

Registration: \$20 (plus lunch cost)

Join us for a powerful pilgrimage to the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in

Greensboro, NC—the historic site of the 1960 Greensboro sit-ins.

We'll gather in the Carol Copeland Courtyard at 8:15 a.m., then travel together for a 90-minute guided tour beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch and time for reflection. This experience is more than a museum visit. As we walk through the story of the courageous young men and women who stood against injustice with faith and dignity, we'll also reflect on our own calling to seek justice, walk in solidarity, and love our neighbors.

Please note: This is a walking pilgrimage, so dress comfortably. Participation is limited to the first 30 registrants—sign up today!

Register: whitememorial.org/register

spirituality & health

WMPC's Health Ministry and Mental Health and Wellness invite you to join them for Spirituality and Health, a two-part series designed to extend the themes of connecting and belonging developed by Dr. Warren Kinghorn during his March program.

We will meet from **6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in K200 on Wednesday, October 15 and October 29**. Plan now to join us for practical hands-on ways to improve our physical and mental well-being. [Registration is required](#). Questions, please contact Health Ministry Coordinator Martha Grove Hipkind at mghipskind@whitememorial.org.

Building Personal Community for Health and Wellness Wednesday | October 15

Who are five people you could call without hesitation after midnight if you needed something? Life is unpredictable and in today's disconnected world, knowing who we might call on to be there for us at a moment's notice can be challenging. Join us as we explore aspects of creating community, sharing information, and experiencing the peace that comes from belonging to one another. This program will be led by Cate Church Norman and Martha Grove Hipkind.

What's Your Spiritual Type? Exploring New Paths to Spiritual Growth Wednesday | October 29

Have you ever wondered what makes you tick—spiritually? You probably know your blood type. You know your favorite flavor of ice cream and the type of vacations you like. But, do you know your spiritual type? Come discover both your spiritual type and specific practices that will feed your spiritual growth. Join us for an opportunity to understand and explore how you can more richly connect with yourself, others, and God. This program will be led by Tom Harris.



MENTAL HEALTH &
WELLNESS MINISTRY

A Snapshot of What's Happening This Week at WMPC

Thursday, September 25

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 23:9-22

- **Keenagers**
10:45 a.m. | Geneva Hall
- **Flu Shot Clinic**
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | K200

Friday, September 26

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 23:23-32

- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall

Saturday, September 27

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 24:1-10

- **High School Beach Retreat**
All day | offsite

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, Director of Music Emeritus
Jennifer Eastman, Director of Young Children's Ministry
Jim Ferry, Parish Associate
Anne Galliher, Associate Pastor for
Congregational Engagement
Kelly Gold, Director of Children's and Youth Music
Tom Harris, Parish Associate
Martha Grove Hipkind, 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
Faith Formation and Worship Ministries
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



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Outreach

A WONDERFUL MORNING OF FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE



On Saturday, September 13, more than 60 volunteers of all ages gathered for a joyful morning of service. Members of the 20s & 30s class arrived bright and early to prepare a hearty pancake breakfast, fueling a day filled with fellowship and purpose.

Together, we packed, assembled, and created:

- **240 weekend meal bags for Backpack Buddies**
- **200 hygiene kits for SouthLight**
- **75 snack bags for SAFEchild**
- **25 self-care kits for women at Raleigh Rescue Mission**
- **28 attic baffles, decorated with colorful paintings, for Habitat for Humanity**
- **Countless handwritten messages of encouragement to accompany Raleigh Rescue Mission's Brown Bag Program**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who served! Your time, energy, and compassion made a difference in our community.

Save the Date!

Join us for our next Servant Saturday on November 15, when we'll partner with Hayes Barton United Methodist Church to host a Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event. Together, we'll pack meals to fight hunger around the world. We look forward to serving alongside you again!

STEPUP MINISTRY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Costumes for Harvest Festival

StepUp Ministry is collecting new and gently used Halloween costumes, sizes: 12 months through 5T, and Size 6 through child XL Any gender! **Items Due October 7, 2025.**

Co-Partner Info Session

Two hours a week. A lifetime of impact! Learn more about becoming a StepUp Co-Partner by joining us on Tuesday, October 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Main Hall.

Coats for the Coat Drive

StepUp Ministry is seeking coats for 75 children/teens in various sizes, starting at 18 months through adult XL. Items Due December 10, 2025. For more information contact Dayna Jameson, djameson@stepupministry.org

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SITE CONSTRUCTION FALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

White Memorial is excited to join faith communities in building homes with Habitat for Humanity. While volunteers are welcome most Saturdays, these are the days when WMPC will serve together:

Saturday, October 18 – Old Poole Place, Raleigh

Saturday, December 13 – A New Neighborhood, Garner

Arrive at 8:15 a.m., take water breaks as needed, enjoy lunch together, and work until about 3:00 p.m.—or as long as you are able. Questions? Contact Eric Miller at eric_miller@ncsu.edu. Register here: whitememorial.org/event.

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Churchwide Collection

Each week when school is in session, our church provides food-insecure children at Oberlin Middle and Lynn Road Elementary Schools with healthy meals and snacks. Contact Jan Stewart, thestewarts2614@gmail.com. Amazon link on website.

Children & Youth

BAPTISM AND BELONGING:

YOUR BABY'S FAITH JOURNEY AT WMPC

Sunday | October 5 | 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. | R400

Baptism and Belonging is a workshop for parents of children under three who would like to present their children for Baptism. In this workshop, parents learn about the significance of the Sacrament of Baptism, go over logistical details, connect with fellow parents, and get an overview of a child's faith journey at WMPC. Expectant parents are also invited to attend. Register: whitememorial.org/register.

SAVE THE DATES:

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday | October 5 | 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Carol Copeland Courtyard

TRUNK OR TREAT

Wednesday | October 29 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | McDonald Lane

God Welcomes All

399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first system. It ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008


MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)



THEMBA AMEN
4.4.9

465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



죄짐말은 우리구주





1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?


What a priv-i-lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!

O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so-lace there.



This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.