

WHITE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PALM-PASSION SUNDAY
March 29, 2026 | 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

The sound of bells summons us to gather for worship.

Two liturgical colors help evoke the yoked meanings of Palm-Passion Sunday, when processional exuberance rides into the face of empire and death. Purple is the color of Lent, with its somber tones of royalty and penitence; red evokes suffering, sacrifice, blood, fire, and spirit. Both these colors give layered expression in today's worship.

Prelude Lamb of God Most Holy

J.S. Bach, composer

*Call to Worship

Lee Hunter

Wonder and stare, fear and beware:
Heaven and Hell are close at hand;
God's living Word, Jesus the Lord,
follows where faith and love demand.

A cheering, chanting, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare,
and hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.
They laid their garments in the road and spread his path with palms
and vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and psalms.

*Hymn 196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*Confession and Pardon

Let us return to God,
whose mercy meets us where we are.

Let us pray, saying,
Hosanna!
Save us!

O God, we have spoken about you
when it would have been better to stay silent;
and we have kept silent
when we should have spoken a word in your favor.
Hosanna!
Save us!

We have preferred to think of "our cross"
as the sum total of our worries,
rather than the hard but essential task
which we alone can do for you.
Hosanna!
Save us!

We have ignored injustice
when we should have renounced evil and its power,
and stayed on the sidelines rather than walking the path you show us.
Hosanna!
Save us!



Palm Sunday Procession, P. Solomon Raj, © 2016

* Asterisks invite us
to rise in body or spirit.

Words in bold are for
everyone to say or sing.

“Lamb of God Most Holy” is a Holy Week hymn recalling the death of Jesus. The hymn is customarily somber, yet here Bach, in a bright tonality, weaves a prelude with flourishes and a magisterial culmination—yet, at its grand peak, with a sudden anguished moment of pathos.

Two songs pull us into worship. One is a short chorus by John L. Bell, singing the proximity of life and death in Jesus' journey. The other is a hymn-text by Thomas Troeger. We sing the hymn later in worship; here, its first two stanzas recall the parade of Jesus' Jerusalem entry.

WORSHIP | EMBRACE | SERVE

in the manner of Christ

Silent prayers

God is near, naming us with love
and calling us forward in grace.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*Response

Hymn 197

**“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.**

*Sharing of the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now declare, “God’s mercy endures forever.”

Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

“This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hosanna! O LORD, save us!

We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;

we bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God and has given us light.

Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

God’s mercy endures forever.

Anthem (9:30)

G.F. Handel (*Messiah*)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,
and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, mighty in battle.

The Lord of hosts: he is the King of Glory.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn 200 A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

CHRISTIAN LOVE

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Genevieve Brooks

**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.**

Offering

John L. Bell, composer

Ride on, ride on, the time is right;
the roadside crowds scream with delight;
palm branches mark the pilgrim way where beggars squat and children play.

Ride on, ride on, your critics wait;
intrigue and rumor circulate;
New lies abound in word and jest, and truth becomes a suspect guest.

Ride on, ride on, while well aware
that those who shout and wave and stare,
Are mortals who, with common breath, can crave for life and lust for death.

Ride on, ride on, though blind with tears,
of silent voice, and deaf to jeers.
Your path is clear, though few can tell their garments pave the road to hell.

Ride on, ride on, the room is let,
the wine matured, the saw is whet;
and dice your death-throes shall attend, though faith, not fate, dictates your end.

Ride on, ride on, God's love demands.
Justice and peace lie in your hands.
Evil and angels' voices rhyme: this is the man and this the time.

When day dimmed down to deepening dark the crowd began to fade
till only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade.

Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise,
remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.

Instead of palms, a winding sheet will have to be unrolled,
a carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

*Affirmation of Faith

adapted from Philippians 2

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.**

And being found in appearance as a human,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Another song by John Bell takes "ride on, ride on"—a phrase from another hymn—as its cue to reflect on this complicated Palm-Passion Sunday, where power, sorrow, violence, and determination weave. Thomas Troeger's hymn-text, sung earlier, helps to send us out into Holy Week.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name that is above every other name,
**so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn 215 What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

*Benediction

*Chiming of the Trinity

*Postlude Praeludium in D Minor

Dietrich Buxtehude, 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 Lindsay Dew at
ext. 270 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.



Jays & CONCERNS

IN THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Robert Carl Stoddard – March 21, 2026

WMPC family members: son,
Robert Stoddard and Betty Stoddard

Joan "Joanie" Peelen Ritsema –

March 22, 2026

WMPC family members: husband,
Raymond Ritsema

PRAYERS AND CHRISTIAN CONCERNS TO

Wynn Dorsett and family, on the death her
mother, Hester Gregory Kirkham, March 23

Belinda Alston and family, on the death of
her grandson, Cayden Alston-Arnold

March 20

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

NEW PRESBYTERIANS

Lee Buchanan Gay, Jr., March 20,
Charlotte, NC, child of Martha and Lee Gay,
grandchild of Jean and Peter Williams

MARRIAGES

Grace Landon Dorsett and Noah Lee Zaiser,
March 21, daughter of Wynn and Jim Dorsett,
granddaughter of Anna Lee Dorsett

BEYOND SUNDAY: LENTEN PODCAST SERIES

In this season of Lent, we invite you to
journey with us. The final episode of our
seven-episode Lenten podcast, "*This We
Ask: Wonderings for the Journey*," comes
out Monday morning. In this episode,
Christopher Edmonston, Pastor and Austin
Vernon, Associate Pastor for Outreach and
Community Engagement reflect on the
final question of the journey: Will we trust
resurrection enough to move us forward
through fear and into joy? You can find
the Lenten podcast series on our website,
Spotify or Apple.

HOLY WEEK

Wholeness & Healing Service

Wednesday April 1

6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday

Thursday April 2

7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Good Friday

Friday April 3

7:30 p.m. | Main Hall

Easter

Sunday April 5

9:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. OnPoint | Main Hall

A Snapshot of What's Happening This Week at WMPC

Sunday, March 29

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

- **Healing Through Grief**
4:00 p.m. | R400

Monday, March 30

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11

- **Bridge with Friends**
1:00 p.m. | The Hub
- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall
- **Tai Chi**
5:30 p.m. | Pickard Hall

Tuesday, March 31

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14

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

Wednesday, April 1

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Hebrews 12:1-3

- **Chair Yoga**
10:00 a.m. | C200
- **Lectio Divina**
11:00 a.m. | Virtual
- **Yin Yoga**
11:15 a.m. | C200
- **Note in the Pocket**
1:30 p.m. | Offsite
- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall
- **Wednesday Together Dinner**
5:00 p.m. | Main Hall
- **Wholeness & Healing Service**
6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

2026 WOMEN'S RETREAT RESCHEDULED

May 1-2, 2026 | Same speaker and theme! | WMPC Campus

It might not be Wrightsville Beach, but we're going to have a great time of fellowship and learning right here on our campus. We're delighted that Rev. Gracie Payne, Senior Pastor of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis can join us. She will lead us in exploring our theme: *Beloved on the Earth: Being, Belonging, Becoming*. Registration is now open! And if you weren't able to register before, this is your opportunity to join us for what promises to be a rich and encouraging weekend. We can't wait to gather together!

GOD'S PROMISE OF PRESENCE IN ANXIOUS TIMES

Spiritual and Psychological Practices for Stress, Fear, and Uncertainty

Saturday April 18 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | WMPC

God's Promise of Presence in Anxious Times is a gentle, integrative workshop that brings together spiritual wisdom and psychological insight to support faithful living amid stress, fear, and uncertainty. Participants will explore practical tools for noticing and responding to anxiety, grounded in God's enduring promise to be with us in all seasons. Through reflection, guided practices, and shared conversation, the workshop offers ways to cultivate grace, compassion, and hope.

Join us for this free morning event on **Saturday, April 18, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** at White Memorial Presbyterian Church. All are welcome, and please invite a friend! Rev. Dr. Judy Yates Siker, and Dr. Elizabeth P. Sparrow, created this event through a series of conversations about the overlaps between religion and mental health. This gathering is sponsored by White Memorial Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh. [Register here!](#)



CONCERT FOR A CAUSE

Friday April 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Main Hall

The OnPoint Band and Youth Choir are pleased to support StepUp Ministry through this Concert for a Cause. While admission is free, donations are strongly encouraged to support their mission. Founded in 1988 by members of White Memorial Presbyterian Church, StepUp Ministry is a non-profit organization that helps hundreds of individuals each year in Wake County transform their lives through employment and life skills training.

The concert will take place in Main Hall in the Edinburgh Building. [Click here to register.](#)

PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. | C300

A newly formed pet loss support group has begun meeting on the WMPC campus. The Triangle Pet Loss Support Group meets **each Thursday at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in C300**. Anyone who has lost a companion animal is welcome to come to the group. Any questions about the group can be directed to its facilitator, Rev. Jonathan Sherrod at cjonathansherrod@yahoo.com.

HEALING THROUGH GRIEF

Sundays March 29 - May 3 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | R400

Grief touches us all at some point in our lives. No one ever has to feel alone during this difficult time. Whether you have suffered the recent loss of a loved one or are struggling with a loss in the past, you are invited to come together for a series of five sessions to help you along your journey of grief.

Each session explores different aspects of grief: from acceptance of your loss and working through its pain, to adjusting to a new way of being while honoring a very significant relationship in your life. Each session builds upon the other, so attendance is encouraged at each session. This class is led by Associate Pastor Cate Church Norman and Pastoral Resident Lee Hunter.

[Click to register!](#)

CAREGIVER'S COFFEE

Tuesday April 14 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | The Hub

Are you a family caregiver or would you like to fellowship with family caregivers? Are you interested in learning more about the many community resources available to you? If so, please come for coffee, conversation, and connection at our next Caregiver's Coffee on Tuesday, April 14 from 10:30 a.m. - noon in the Hub. All are welcome; please feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to join you. For more information, please contact Martha Grove Hipkind, mghipkind@whitememorial.org.

A Snapshot of What's Happening This Week at WMPC

Thursday, April 2

Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

- **Keenagers**
10:45 a.m. | Geneva Hall
- **Note in the Pocket**
1:30 p.m. | Offsite
- **Pet Loss Support Group**
7:00 p.m. | C300
- **Maundy Thursday Service**
7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Friday, April 3

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22

- **Pickleball**
2:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall
- **Good Friday Service**
7:30 p.m. | Main Hall

Saturday, April 4

Job 14:1-14; Lamentations 3:1-9; 19-24

- **Drive-thru Food Pantry**
9:00 a.m. | Offsite

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

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
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
Austin Vernon, Associate Pastor for Outreach and
Community Engagement
Eric Wall, Director of Music



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Outreach

EASTER MEAL DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED ON GOOD FRIDAY

Friday April 3

On April 3, Good Friday, Raleigh Rescue Mission, in partnership with Meals on Wheels and Christ the King Presbyterian Church, will provide meals to those in need in Wake County. This community event currently needs volunteers to deliver meals. Your assigned pick up time and delivery route will be emailed a few days in advance of your shift.

Signup online at: m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20F0E4FAEA829A0FF2-61951259-2026

OBERLIN ROAD DRIVE-THRU FOOD PANTRY

Saturday April 4

Our March drive-through pantry distributed 85+ food bags to neighbors in need—thank you! This effort depends on donations from our five partner churches. White Memorial is collecting proteins and healthy snacks. Please place items in the red Outreach bin or order for direct shipment via our Amazon Wishlist. Most needed: peanut butter, canned tuna/chicken, beans.

If you'd like to volunteer your time, we'd love to have you join us at St. John's Baptist Church on **Friday April 3** to help setup or **Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. - noon** to help distribute food bags.



Scan to access the Amazon wishlist Scan to volunteer

SERVANT SATURDAY

April 25 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall

Join us for a morning of service and fellowship—all ages welcome! Projects include packing Backpack Buddies bags, assembling hygiene kits, Habitat for Humanity raffles, Raleigh Rescue Mission notes, and more.

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Churchwide Collection

Each week when school is in session, our church provides food-insecure children at Oberlin Middle School and Lynn Road and Lacy Elementary Schools with healthy meals and snacks. Contact Jan Stewart, thestewarts2614@gmail.com. Amazon link is on website. If you'd prefer to shop you can pick up a shopping list on the Outreach room door (K100).

Children + Youth

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Attention White Memorial high school seniors and returning college students! If you would like to apply for one of the college scholarships offered by White Memorial Presbyterian Church Foundation, [please complete the College Scholarship Application Form](#). The online applications must be **completed by Friday, April 24, 2026**. If you have questions, please email Lindsay at Scholarships@whitememorial.org.

CHILDREN'S MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday April 12 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | C200

Children in Kindergarten-3rd grade are invited to watch *Trolls* from 5 - 7 p.m. in C200. Registration required. Bring your sleeping bag or blanket and join us for movie night in Calvin 200! Pizza is \$6.00 a person.

CLUB 4/5

Sunday April 12 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | C100

Spring into Something Awesome!
4th & 5th graders are invited to join on April 12 at 5:00 p.m. and Spring into Something Awesome! Join us in Calvin 100! Dinner is \$7.00 a person.

IT IS WELL WHEN WE INVEST IN OUR YOUTH!

The youth staff isn't hosting a dinner this year. No tickets, no tables, just a simple invitation. If you believe in investing in the faith of the next generation, please scan the QR code and consider making a donation. Thank you.



All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd 200



1 A cheer - ing, chant - ing, diz - zy crowd had
2 They laid their gar - ments in the road and
3 When day dimmed down to deep - ening dark the
4 Lest we be fooled be - cause our hearts have
5 In - stead of palms, a wind - ing sheet will



stripped the green trees bare, and hail - ing Christ as
spread his path with palms and vows of last - ing
crowd be - gan to fade till on - ly tram - pled
surged with pass - ing praise, re - mind us, God, as
have to be un - rolled, a car - pet much more



king a - loud, waved branch - es in the air.
love be - stowed with roy - al hymns and psalms.
leaves and bark were left from the pa - rade.
this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.
fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

This Palm Sunday hymn recreates the contrasting sounds of Holy Week, moving from the noisy public acclaim of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the solitary silence of his body being prepared for burial. It gently reminds us that self-giving is the mark of Christ's true sovereignty.

TEXT: Thomas H. Troeger, 1985
MUSIC: Paul Benoit, OSB, 1959, alt.
Text © 1985 Oxford University Press
Music © 1960 World Library Publications

CHRISTIAN LOVE
CM

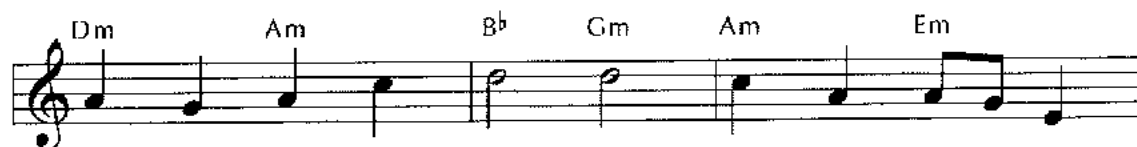
What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."