

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 - PROPER 21
18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NACOGDOCHES, TX



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*The Lion of Saint Mark
Martin Schongauer ca. 1435-1491
The Elisha Whittelsey Collection*

GOD WELCOMES
ALL INTO
WORSHIP.
COME, AS
PEOPLE
BELOVED IN
GOD;
TO SING, PRAY,
ENGAGE THE
WORD
PROCLAIMED,
BE CLEANSED
AND FED BY
THE MEANS OF
GRACE AND
LIVE OUT
BELONGING
DRAWN
TOGETHER BY
THE SPIRIT.

Bold text is read or sung
by the assembly

*Asterisk invites all
to stand in body or spirit

Preparation for Worship

"Wisdom is not gained by knowing what is right. Wisdom is gained by practicing what is right, and noticing what happens when that practice succeeds and when it fails."
- Barbara Brown Taylor

GATHERING

Voluntary

Dr. James Pitts

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

**We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning,
Your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you
for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with Your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful.
Thanks be to God.

Confession is an invitation to lay down our burdens and be truthful about how sin disconnects us from God and one another, and to name all the ways in which, we, like Paul, "Do not understand the impact of our own actions (Romans 7:15) Yet, we trust God has forgiven and restored us before we ask.

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. Having received Christ's peace, we pass it on.

The Scriptures are selected from the Revised Common Lectionary, a church wide reading plan. After 3 years major themes of scripture and large portions of all books in the Bible will have been read.

The Lion of Saint Mark represents one of the four creatures symbolic of the Evangelists that are described as surrounding God's throne in the Bible in Revelation 4:7. The winged lion is well-known as a symbol of power, pride, magnificence, nobility and courage. It was associated with Mark because it emphasizes the Resurrection power, the majesty and the regality of Christ and the characteristics of his Gospel. Mark in fact, in order to describe John the Baptist, began his book with the citation "the voice of one that shouts in the desert" that makes people imagine to the roar of a lion.

(art on cover)

Sources: *The National Gallery, London and Marywood University*

* Hymn 445

God, How Can We Forgive

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
you call us to service and work that cannot be done alone.
Yet we overburden ourselves,
and our egos keep us from asking for help.
Forgive our false show of strength.
Humble us in leadership.
Help us to acknowledge that the gifts we have been given
in the Body of Christ
include hands of help and support.**

silent prayer

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
**Have mercy on us, O God, set us free to serve you in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. AMEN**

* Declaration of Forgiveness

God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

* Gloria Patri

**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.**

* The Peace

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

Quartet

O Taste and See

by Ralph Vaughn Williams

*O taste and see how
gracious the Lord is.
Blest is the man
that trusteth in Him.*

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalm 19: 7-14

Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

*** Gospel Reading**

Mark 9:38-50

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Time with Younger Disciples

Sermon

They Aren't With Us

Invitation to Discipleship

Yes, we all fall short of the shoulds and oughts.
We have good news. God's love is relentless;
it is always seeking the forgiveness and restitution
of the wayward, rebellious and the lost.

*** Hymn 351**

All Who Love and Serve Your City

*** Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles Creed

Page 35

Offering & Thanksgiving

*** Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all
creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

...Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer...**

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 353**

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Announcements

Charge & Blessing

Voluntary

Dr. James Pitts

REFLECTION QUESTION FOR THE WEEK

To be clothed in Christ's righteousness is to be wrapped in mercy, love, and hope.
Notice this week in what parts of your life you are dying and rising with Christ.

Apostles Creed

although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Candidates for membership in the church, having undergone a lengthy catechesis (season of study and discipline) were asked at baptism to state what they believed. They responded in the words of this creed. While it underwent development, by the eighth century, the creed had attained its present form.

Offering plates are placed at the doors to decrease contact and to mitigate COVID-19 exposure. Donations can also be mailed to the church office.

Liturgy describes the prayers, music, and all other components of the worship service. The word liturgy breaks down to mean 'work of the people' better understood as public service. Worship is reciprocal. It is a conversation and relationship between God, the people, and the presider. The content of the service comes from many sources. Much of it comes directly from scripture (those pieces are noted on the far right margin). Other prayers are the inheritance of the Church. All that takes place in worship is part of the liturgy; and that includes - you.

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY: September 26, Youth Group meets here, 4PM
Session Meeting, 6PM
MONDAY: September 27, Presbyterian Women Meeting, 1 PM
Kallie at SFA lunch college students, 12PM
Soul Sisters, 5PM
TUESDAY: September 28, Handbell Practice, 5:30PM
WEDNESDAY: September 29, Prayer service in sanctuary, 11AM
Bible Study, 11:30AM
Choir Practice, 7:30PM
THURSDAY: September 30, Farewell Gathering for Sue, Naca Valley Winery, 7PM
NEXT SUNDAY: October 3, Sunday School, 9:45AM
Coffee and Donuts in courtyard, 10:40AM
Worship, 11PM

SAVE THE DATE: October 5, Theology on Tap

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Kallie Pitcock, *Presider & Preacher*
Dr. Sharon Templeman, *Liturgist*
Dr. Deborah Dalton, *Director of Music*
Dr. James Pitts, *Organist*
Quartet **Emily Rhoades**, soprano
Deanna Fitz, alto
Anthony Pham, tenor
Vance Rogers, bass
Dr. John Moore, *Technology*
Vance Rogers, *Opener/Closer*
Michael Maurer, *Head Usher*
Amy Maurer, *Usher*
Margaret Sultenfuss, *Usher*
Sharon Templeman, *Usher*
Presbyterian Women, *Flower Delivery*

**At Westminster Presbyterian
Church Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)
all members are ministers.**

TODAY'S FLOWERS

**have been placed in the sanctuary, to the glory
of God by the Westminster members who
contribute to the flower fund**

As a PC(USA) congregation, Westminster, is led by a council of elders (the session) who are elected by the congregation to three year terms. The session is moderated by the pastor. Leading as a group of representatives, this group discerns the spiritual and programmatic life of the congregation .

THE SESSION

CLASS OF 2021

Deborah Dalton
Charles Gavin
Kevin Helmer
Lynnae Perdue
Lisa Thompson

CLASS OF 2022

Sue Johnson
Tony Thompson
Stephanie Petti
Bruce McNellie
Robin Moore

CLASS OF 2023

Bobbie Ann Anderson
Jill Ivy
Vance Rogers
Ray Taylor
Katie Tracey

903 North St, Nacogdoches, TX 75961

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Church Office: (936) 564-0203 (*working again!*)

Rev. Pitcock: (936) 463-8298 - kallie@wpcnac.com

Church email: office@wpcnac.com

Church Office Hours: 8:00 am - noon, Monday - Friday

445 God, How Can We Forgive

1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an-guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,

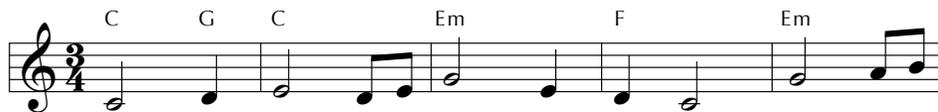
How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?

When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

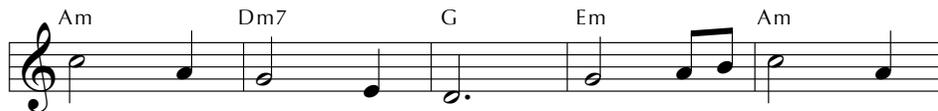
your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

This text reflects both the struggle to deal with a deep personal hurt and a keen awareness of biblical language and content. The opening line of stanza two, for example, draws on the root meaning of the Greek word for sin, and the beginning of stanza three alludes to John 8:3-8.

All Who Love and Serve Your City 351



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
2 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
3 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
4 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for
work and wast - ed play, call to mind the
Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a
cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our



peace and jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:
word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
world that spurns him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This 20th-century text greatly enriches the neglected genre of urban hymns. The second stanza quotes John 9:4, the third stanza refers to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37/Luke 13:34), and the final line cites the name given to Israel's future holy city (Ezekiel 48:35).

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un-
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righ - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay. less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24–27/Luke 6:47–49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.