

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday | August 16 | 2026
9:30 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.



Woman of Canaan, 1964, Sadao Watanabe (1913-1996)

Preacher

Christopher Edmonston

Liturgists

Cate Church Norman | Alli Buikema Cooper

Musicians

Katrina Liao | Music Ministry

Additional Leader

Grier Booker Richards

WHITE MEMORIAL
— PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH —

1704 Oberlin Road | Raleigh NC 27608 | whitememorial.org

Gathering

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

Words in bold are for everyone to say or sing.

The sounds of bells summon us to gather for worship.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We lift up the name of the Lord

and rejoice for God hears our prayers!

Praise the One who brings healing to our pain

and causes joy to follow after long nights of sorrow.

We will not be silent. We will not still our tongues!

O Lord, our God, we will give thanks to you forever and ever.

*HYMN 19

*We praise the God who
loves and cares for all,
no matter how small
or lowly.*

God of Great and God of Small

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Generous God, we confess today that our hearts can easily become calloused, and when they do, we begin to shrug with indifference at both small kindnesses and great needs. When our hearts start to harden, we can feel it takes too much energy to engage with the world around us or with the people around us. So we tune it all out.

Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for toughening our hearts when you ask us to keep them tender. Forgive us for trying to ignore the world when you call us to proclaim your good news in the midst of it. Turn us around, O God, that we might remember who we are, whose we are, and the life to which you have called us.

(Time for silent prayer.)

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*RESPONSE

Now with Joyful Exultation

BEACH SPRING

Now with joy - ful ex - ul - ta - tion let us sing to God our
praise; to the Rock of our sal - va - tion loud ho -
san - nas let us raise. Thank - ful trib - ute glad - ly
bring - ing, let us come be - fore him now, and, with
psalms his prais - es sing - ing, joy - ful in his presence bow.

SACRAMENT OF
BAPTISM

(9:30) **Patsy Ann Parrott**, child of Forrest and Davis Ann Parrott
(11:00) **Graham Carter Shuford**, child of Will Shuford and Mariah Harris

We Proclaim God’s Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION

May I Be Empty

Batya Levine

May I be empty and o - pen to re - ceive the light. May I be
empty and o - pen to re - ceive. May I be full and o - pen to re - ceive
the light. May I be full and o - pen to re - ceive.

READING

Psalm 133

READING

Matthew 15:21-28

SERMON

Preaching with Your Back Against a Wall

We Respond to God's Word

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

(verses 1-3, 5)

*HYMN 769

*As we consider the way
Jesus acknowledged the
Canaanite woman, we
recognize that everyone
born has a place at
the table. May we
show God's justice, joy,
compassion, and peace
to all.*

OFFERINGS

(9:30) Give Us Your Heart

People & Songs, Melanie Tierce

(11:00) Building Up the Kingdom

M. Roger Holland II



Text WMPC to 73256 to Give.

Scan to Give

PRAYERS OF THE

PEOPLE

**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.**

*AFFIRMATION

OF FAITH

from The United Church of Canada

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

We Go In God's Name

*HYMN 656

*This hymn emphasizes the
"great faith" Jesus saw in
the Canaanite woman.*

We've Come This Far by Faith

THIS FAR BY FAITH

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE



Scan to make a Prayer Request

The flowers for today's service are given to the glory of God and in celebration, of Patsy Ann Parrott's baptism and in loving memory of her great-grandparents: Patsy Davis, Lillian and Marion Parrott, Jean and Louis Bilodeau.

*During worship, children are welcome to explore and play with items from the crates and bookcases in KidsPoint.
Those who prefer to stay in their seats are welcome to bring items back with them.*

[Click here or scan below to view updates to the Four Pillars of Promise renovations.](#)



Courtyard & Building Access Update

A pedestrian path is now open through the Carol Copeland Courtyard to provide access to The Hub. Please note that the bridge connecting the Luther and Knox buildings remains closed for construction. In addition, the courtyard itself will be closed during construction activities. Please use alternate building entrances when accessing the campus.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we complete these improvements.

Music in today's service presented with permission under
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Joys & CONCERNS

PRAYERS AND CHRISTIAN CONCERNS TO

Nancy Ruark, on the death of her brother, John Robert Ruark, July 24, Virginia Beach, VA

Judith Allen and family, on the death of her husband, Arthur Allen, August 5, Raleigh, NC

Gerald Roach and family, on the death of his mother, Mary Jon Roach, August 6, Raleigh, NC

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

If you have a relative or church friend who is hospitalized, email Caroline Parker at cparker@whitememorial.org
or call 919-834-3424 during regular business hours so our pastoral staff can reach out. If you have an urgent pastoral care need that is outside of normal business hours, call our after-hours pastor on call at 919-605-4593.

WORSHIP | EMBRACE | SERVE

in the manner of Christ



Sunday, August 16

- Blessing of the Backpacks

Monday, August 17

- Bridge with Friends
- Pickleball

Tuesday, August 18

- Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
- Gentle Yoga
- Mahjong

Wednesday, August 19

- Lectio Divina
- Pickleball

Thursday, August 20

- Keenagers (offsite)
- Pet Loss Support Group

Friday, August 21

- Pickleball

Saturday, August 22

Looking at the week and beyond

You can find details on these and other events on our website and church calendar.
whitememorial.org/events | Register for events: whitememorial.org/register

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS + KONA ICE

Today | 4:00 p.m. | Outside the gym

We hope you will join us on Sunday August 16 at 4:00 p.m. outside the gym for Blessing of the Backpacks and Kona Ice! Playgrounds will be open for fellowship and time with friends as we gear up for the new school year. All ages are welcome!

JOIN THE WMPC HANDBELL CHOIR

The Handbell Choir is seeking new ringers for the upcoming school year. Previous handbell experience is not required, but participants should be able to read music. All adults and students in senior high school are welcome. Rehearsals will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00–8:00 p.m., beginning Monday, September 14. To learn more contact Katrina Liao at kliao@whitememorial.org.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRIES

We invite rising kindergarteners - high school seniors to participate in Children's Choir, Youth Choir, or the Youth Worship Band this fall. Rehearsals begin in September (**register by 8/21 for choir and 9/16 for band**). Contact Kelly Gold at kgold@whitememorial.org for more information.

WDS IS LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

The Weekday School is looking for caring, dependable substitute teachers to support our classrooms. If you love working with young children, we want to hear from you. Want to know more? Contact Cynthia Baggett at cbaggett@whitememorial.org or Blair Miller at bmiller@whitememorial.org.

8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Registration is open for all rising 8th grade students interested in joining the 2026–2027 Confirmation Class. Classes meet Sundays from 9:30–10:30 a.m. beginning August 30, 2026, and continue through April 25, 2027. [Register for the class now!](#) Questions? Contact Genevieve Brooks gbrooks@whitememorial.org.

ART, MUSIC AND MEDITATION

Sunday August 30 | 11:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | C301

This gathering time includes calming music, and expressive art-making to help participants relax, reconnect with themselves, and experience creativity in a welcoming church community setting. All are welcome--no art experience is needed! All supplies will be provided. Register: whitememorial.org/register

Welcome!

We are glad you are worshipping with us today.

Deacons can be found around Main Hall to offer a friendly greeting, answer questions and provide directions. New members are received after attending the *Believing & Belonging @WMPC* class. Visit whitememorial.org/join or contact Lindsay Dew at ldew@whitememorial.org.

Things to Know

Restrooms

are located outside of Main Hall

Nursery

Childcare is available for children up to four years old in the Calvin Building

Sunday School (resumes 9/13)

Refreshments

Coffee and water stations are located outside the Main Hall

Hearing Assistance

Loop system and FM system available in the Main Hall

AED/NARCAN

Available in Main Hall, Lobby in Ross, Lobby in Calvin and 3rd floor Luther

Live Streaming

Services available at whitememorial.org, Facebook and YouTube

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

After Hours Pastor On Call: 919-605-4593



Pastoral & Program Staff

Christopher Edmonston, Pastor

Cynthia Baggett, Director of Weekday School

Genevieve Brooks, Director of Family Ministry

Cate Church Norman, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Alli Buikema Cooper, Pastoral Resident

Claire Cox-Woodlief, Executive Director

Tracey Daniel, Director of Young Children's Ministry

Brock Downward, Director of Music Emeritus

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 Hipskind, Health Ministry Coordinator

Paige Hokunson, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

Kathy Howell, Communications Director

Katrina Liao, Associate Director of Music

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 Executive Director

Martha Stevenson, Educator Emerita

Austin Vernon, Associate Pastor for Outreach and

Community Engagement

Eric Wall, Director of Music

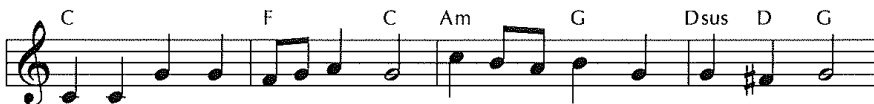
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God of Great and God of Small 19



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

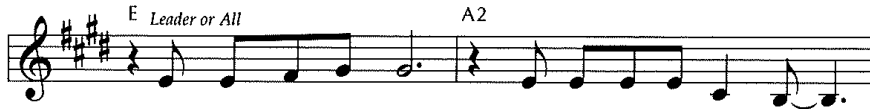
Text and Music © 1973 Carl Fischer, Inc.

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

7.7.7.7 with refrain

769

For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bus - ed, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Refrain



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus-tice and joy!

We've Come This Far by Faith 656

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord,

trust-ing in the ho-ly Word; God's nev-er failed us yet.

O, can't turn a-round, we've come this

far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

This refrain from a longer hymn could well be understood as a black gospel reflection on several biblical passages: 2 Corinthians 5:7, 1 Samuel 7:12, and 1 Chronicles 17:16. All these texts bear witness to God's faithfulness toward all who are engaged in the pilgrimage of faith.