

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday | September 20 | 2026
9:30 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.



Couple Walking among Olive Trees, 1890, Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)

Preacher

Christopher Edmonston

Liturgists

Austin Vernon | Alli Buikema Cooper

Musicians

Katrina Liao | Eric Nanz | Eric Wall | Music Ministry

Additional Leaders

Anne Galliher

WHITE MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1704 Oberlin Road | Raleigh NC 27608 | whitememorial.org



PRELUDE

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.

We Walk by Faith

tune by Henry Alford

*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Colossians 2:6-7

As those who have received Christ Jesus the Lord,
we will continue to walk in him;
to be rooted and built up in Christ,
to be established in the faith, just as we were taught,
always abounding in thanksgiving.

*HYMN 612

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

*CONFESSION AND
ASSURANCE OF
GOD'S GRACE

**Gracious God, you ask us to walk by faith and not by sight,
yet we so often do not notice the movement of your Spirit. We are
discouraged by the things we see and allow ourselves to be
immobilized by hopelessness. We close our eyes to that which we
do not wish to confront. We walk away from you and away from our
neighbors. Teach us to walk in the ways of Christ and to pattern our
steps after his. Draw near to our weariness and give us strength for
the journey.**

(Time for silent prayer.)

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Guatemalan folk melody
arr. Christine Carson/Iona Community

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the hea - vens too; the
peace of the riv - ers be with you, the peace of the o - ceans
too. Deep God's peace peace fall - ing ov - er you.
grow - ing in you.

SACRAMENT OF
BAPTISM (9:30)

Stuart Johnson Troxler, child of Anna and Davis Troxler

TIME WITH YOUNG
DISCIPLES (11:00)

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT
READING

Isaiah 40:21-24, 28-31

NEW TESTAMENT
READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

SERMON

Walking in the Light and Not in the Dark

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN 817

We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

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.**

OFFERINGS

How lovely are the messengers
that preach us the gospel of peace.

Felix Mendelssohn (11:00)

Through all the nations has gone forth the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord;
we will wait upon the Lord.

Brenton Brown/Ken Riley

Our God, you reign forever, our hope, our strong deliverer.
You are the everlasting God;
you do not faint; you won't grow weary.
You're the defender of the weak; you comfort those in need
you lift us up on wings like eagles.

*Ministry Match is a tool
that allows
congregants to identify their talents and
passions and discover
opportunities to serve
which utilize their
unique gifts.*



Scan to take the Ministry Match survey



Scan to Give

*AFFIRMATION
OF FAITH

from Ephesians 2:8-10

**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your
own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no
one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ
Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we
may walk in them.**

We Go In God's Name

*HYMN 742

We Will Walk with God

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

We will walk with God together; we will walk with God.

We will walk with God together; we will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

We will come rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE



Scan to make a Prayer Request

We invite you to stay after the 11:00 a.m. service for a brief celebration honoring Christopher Edmonston's 15 years as WMPC's head pastor.



The new liturgical art here in Main Hall was part of the 2026 PAM Worship and Music Conference in Montreat. White Memorial purchased it after the conference. It was created for the conference by artist Joel Schoon-Tanis. In it, creation and the tree of life come to life in vibrant color; above the tree we begin to glimpse the cosmic splendor of the City of God. It gives a bold expression to this fall's "Deeply Planted" themes.

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.

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



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

PRAYERS AND CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

Kim Griffin and family, on the death of her father, Horace Goff, Sept 8, Wilson, 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, September 20

- Believing & Belonging
- Art, Music and Meditation
- Children's Movie Night
- Club 4/5
- Parenting Workshop

Monday, September 21

- Outreach Sewing
- Bridge with Friends
- Pickleball
- Tai Chi

Tuesday, September 22

- Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
- Women's Breakfast/Circle
- Gentle Yoga
- Cancer Companions

Wednesday, September 23

- Chair Yoga
- Yin Yoga
- Lectio Divina
- Pickleball
- Wednesday Together Dinner

Thursday, September 24

- Keenagers

Friday, September 25

- Pickleball

Saturday, September 26

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

VOLUNTEER VAN DRIVERS NEEDED

If you have a clean driving record and can pass a background check, we'd love to have you drive one of our church vans to shuttle our Keenagers (55+ years of age) to their off-site outings once a month. You can volunteer as often—or as little—as you'd like, even if that means just once a year. We'll provide the training. If you're interested, please contact our Office Manager, Leigh Ann Dailey at ldailey@whitememorial.org.

BLOOD DRIVE

Monday September 28 |

1:30 - 6:00 p.m. | Pickard Hall

WMPC will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday September 28. To make an appointment [register here](#).

CIRCLE OF SECURITY GRANDPARENTING

If you're a grandparent, we have a wonderful opportunity coming up for you—and you don't have to be a grandparent of a child at White Memorial Weekday School to participate. All grandparents are welcome! Circle of Security Grandparenting is a nine-week class designed to help us better understand our grandchildren, strengthen those relationships, and learn practical ways to respond to their emotions and needs with confidence, empathy, and love. The class begins September 23 and meets Wednesday mornings from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m. at the White Memorial Weekday School. To register, email Cynthia Baggett at cbaggett@whitememorial.org.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Monday September 28 |

7:00 p.m. | Davidson Chapel

For one year, All Are Welcome has been creating a faith-based space of fellowship and emotional and spiritual support for LGBTQ+ adults and the adults who support this community. We meet on the 4th Monday of every month. For more information, contact Kathy Hart at hartmusic1@gmail.com, Linda Robinson at raleigh-robinsons@gmail.com or Scott Wilson at bswilson@gmail.com.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday October 4 | 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Carol Copeland Courtyard

Let's worship God together and give thanks for our companion animals through song and prayer. A brief meditation will be offered, our pets and companion animals will receive a special blessing, and we will have a time to honor those companion animals who are no longer with us. Bring your leashed pet or photo of pet. Supplies like food, litter, toys, etc. will be collected for the SPCA of Wake County.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SITE BUILD

Saturday October 10 | 8:00 a.m. | Offsite

We are looking for volunteers, age 16 and up, with no prior experience needed. Join us for a good time, our affordable housing mission, and faith fellowship! Please [sign-up](#) 15 days prior to the build day. Arrive at 8:00 a.m., 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.

Welcome!

We are glad you are worshiping 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

9:30 a.m. for all ages

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

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

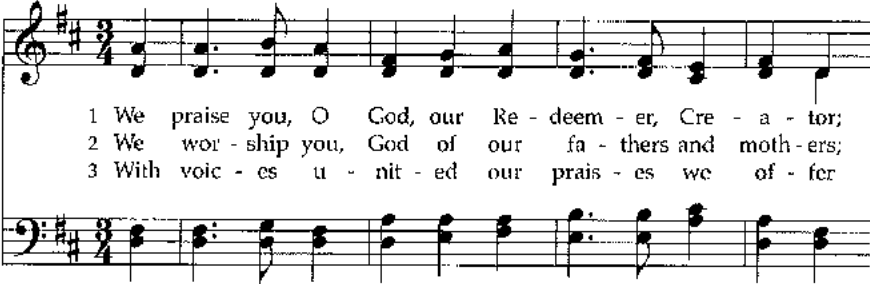
Eric Wall, Director of Music

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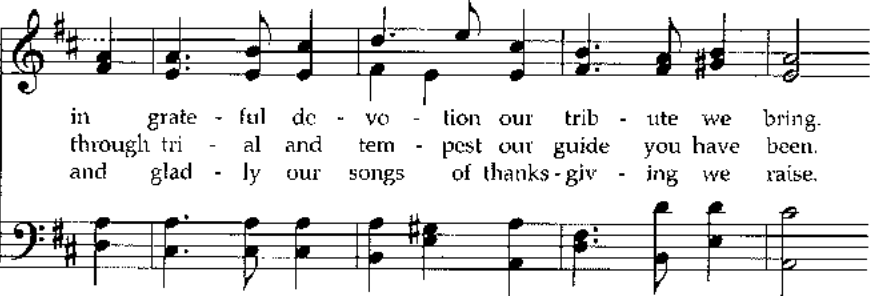
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We Praise You, O God

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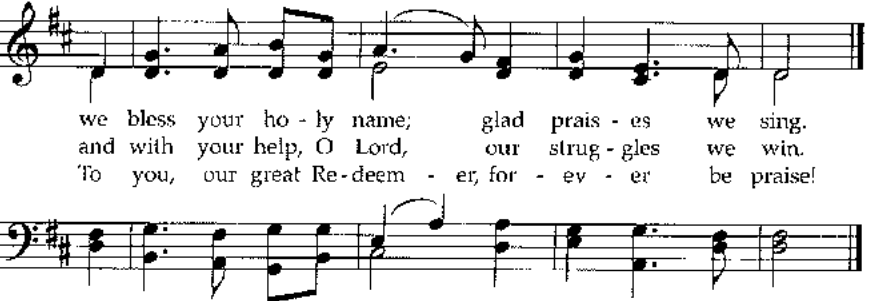
1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words draw near; O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.