

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday | July 19 | 2026
9:30 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.



Sower and the Devil, 1923, Albin Egger-Lienz (1868-1926)

Preacher

Austin Vernon

Liturgist

Anne Galliher

Musicians

Katrina Liao | Eric Nanz | Music Ministry

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

Search us, O God, and know our hearts,

for we long to dwell in your presence.

In this place, our fears and doubts find a home in your mercy,

our steps are made steady by your promises.

Fill us with a spirit of courage and conviction,

as we bear your love into the world with hope and humility.

*HYMN 35

*As we consider the
kingdom of heaven in
today's gospel reading,
we begin with praise to
the King of creation.*

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

*CONFESSION AND
ASSURANCE OF
GOD'S GRACE

God of all, we bemoan the complexities of our lives

and this world in which we live. Fighting against

uncertainty, we desperately try to shove things into

neat little boxes and categories, believing it would be

easier if we could identify the weeds in the wheat.

We admit our confusion and consternation with parables,

wishing Jesus would just say what he means – and yet,

when he does, we still don't listen. Forgive us, Lord,

for our arrogance and inspire us with humility;

forgive our apathy and mobilize us to action. Help us

partner with you in bringing your kingdom into our

small corner of the world. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

(Time for silent prayer.)

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*RESPONSE

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (verse 1)

Make me a chan - nel of your peace. Where there is ha - tred,

let me bring your love. Where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don,

Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

COMMISSIONING
(9:30)

As many of you as were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ. Galatians 3:27-28

**There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.** Ephesians 4:1-6

How very good and pleasant it is
when sisters and brothers live together in unity! Psalm 133:1, 3

**It is like the dew of Mount Hermon, which falls on the mountains
of Zion. For there the LORD ordained the blessing of life forevermore.**

TIME WITH YOUNG
DISCIPLES (11:00)

We Proclaim God’s Word

PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION

READING Adapted from Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

HYMN 29 O God, You Search Me, (stanzas 1-3) O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

READING Matthew 13:24-33

SERMON Persistent Humility, Subversive Hope

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN 698

This hymn with its repeated refrain allows us to dedicate ourselves to sowing good seed for the kingdom of God.

PRAYERS OF
THE PEOPLE

Take, O Take Me as I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

**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

This arrangement by contemporary Korean composer Sun Ahn uses piano, violin, and cello to fuse two beloved tunes together.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing & Be Thou My Vision

arr. Sun Ahn



Scan to Give

*AFFIRMATION
OF FAITH

from the Iona Community

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the Spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful so to be the Church, for the glory of God.

We Go In God's Name

*HYMN I Saw the Light

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE



Scan to make a Prayer Request

THANK YOU, LEE!

On July 26, Rev. Lee Hunter Baissana will conclude her ministry as Pastoral Resident at White Memorial. Lee has been a cherished part of our community, sharing her gifts, wisdom, and infectious joy with all of us for the last 3 years. We will miss her deeply, but we celebrate this new chapter in her journey and give thanks for the many ways she has blessed our congregation. We know that wherever God calls her, she will continue to touch lives and serve with the same grace, enthusiasm, and faithfulness that have meant so much to us.

To give a gift of appreciation: scan the QR code below or leave a note in the basket in the Ross Building lobby.



*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.](#)



The bridge and Carol Copeland courtyard are temporarily closed due to construction.
You can enter via Pickard or Geneva Hall.

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

PRAYERS AND CHRISTIAN CONCERNS TO

Kevin White and family, on the death of his father, Carl "Bud" White, July 13, Winston-Salem

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, July 19

Monday, July 20

- Bridge with Friends
- Pickleball

Tuesday, July 21

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

Wednesday, July 22

- Lectio Divina
- Pickleball

Thursday, July 23

- Pet Loss Support Group

Friday, July 24

- Pickleball

Saturday, July 25

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

SUMMER MEALS TO GO

Wednesdays & Thursdays through July 30

[Reservations must be made by 11:00 p.m. the Sunday prior.](#)

Payment via online only, no cash. Pick-up between 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. IMPORTANT NOTE: Need to add more dates to an existing Meals To-Go reservation? Instead of creating a new order each week (like the old system), edit your original reservation to add the additional dates.

SAVE THE DATE! WASHINGTON, DC AFRICAN AMERICAN PILGRIMAGE

Join the WMPC M.O.R.E.

Team (Ministry on Racial Equity) September 18-19 for our fourth African American History Pilgrimage, this time to Washington, DC! **Registration closes July 31.**

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 or sign up, contact Katrina Liao at kliao@whitememorial.org.

WDS IS LOOKING FOR FLOATING ASSISTANT TEACHERS!

The Weekday School is looking for caring, dependable floating Assistant Teachers to support our infant, toddler, and two-year-old classrooms. If you love working with young children, and are ready for an active, hands-on day we want to hear from you. Want to know more? Contact Cynthia Baggett at cbaggett@whitememorial.org or Blair Miller at bmiller@whitememorial.org.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRIES

Registration is now open for our children's and youth music ministries this fall. We invite rising kindergarteners through high school seniors to participate in Children's Choir, Youth Choir, or the Youth Worship Band. These groups provide opportunities to grow musically, build friendships, deepen faith, and lead worship throughout the year. Rehearsals begin in September, and registration is open on our website. Contact Kelly Gold at kgold@whitememorial.org for more information.

PORTRAITS OF RESISTANCE

We invite you to check out the beautiful quilt display called "Portraits of Resistance and Resilience," which is now on view outside Main Hall through July 31st. These quilts were made by women from Wilson Temple Methodist Church and West Raleigh Presbyterian Church.

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 (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

Claire Cox-Woodlief, Executive Director

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

Lee Hunter, Pastoral Resident

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

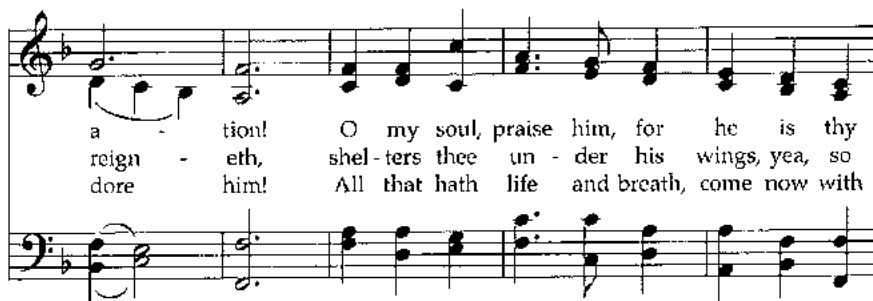
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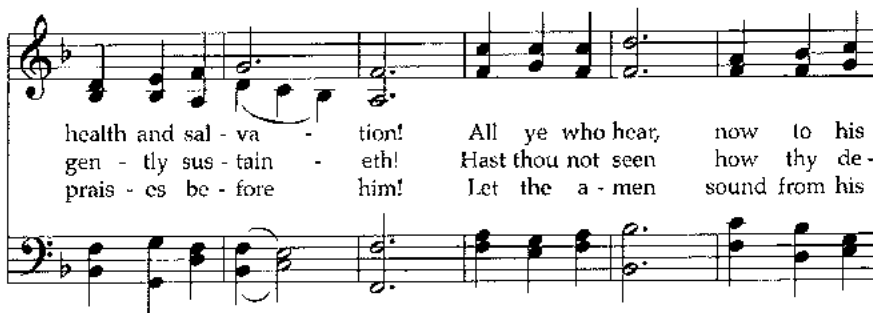
35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty



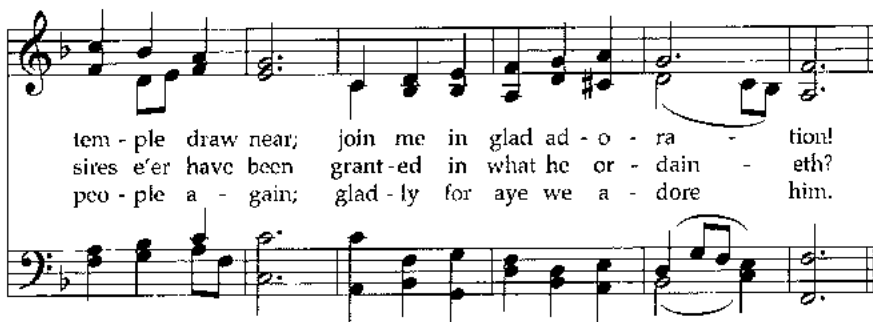
1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

O God, You Search Me

29

(Psalm 139)



1 O God, you search me and you know me. All my
 2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing. You dis -
 3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have
 4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me, still I
 5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me, gave me



thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze. When I
 cern my pur - pose from a - far, and with
 known its mean - ing through and through. You are
 search for shel - ter from your light. There is
 life with - in my moth - er's womb. For the



walk or lie down you are be - fore me: ev - er the
 love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me: in ev - ery
 with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing: God of my
 no - where on earth I can es - cape you: e - ven the
 won - der of who I am, I praise you: safe in your



mak - er and keep - er of my days.
 mo - ment of life or death, you are.
 pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
 dark - ness is ra - dian - t in your sight.
 hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of answers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication.