

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday | September 27 | 2026
9:30 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.



Olive Orchard, 1890, Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890)

Preacher

Christopher Edmonston

Liturgists

Anne Galliher | Grier Booker Richards

Musicians

Katrina Liao | Eric Nanz | Eric Wall | Music Ministry

WHITE MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1704 Oberlin Road | Raleigh NC 27608 | whitememorial.org



INTROIT

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.

Centering Prayer

PORTER'S GATE

*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.

We will be rooted and built up in Christ.

We will be established in the faith we've been taught,
always abounding in thanksgiving.

*HYMN

*The United Methodist
"Upper Room Worship-
book" offers this
expanded language for
a beloved hymn, singing
gratitude for creation and
wonder.*

This Is God's Wondrous World

TERRA BEATA

text: Maltbie D. Babcock, alt.

This is God's won-drous world, and to my lis-tening ears all
This is God's won-drous world, the birds their car-ols raise, the
This is God's won-drous world: O let me ne'er for-get that
na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres. This
morn-ing light, the li-ly white de-clare their Ma-ker's praise. This
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ru-ler yet. This
is God's won-drous world: I rest me in the thought of
is God's won-drous world: God shines in all that's fair; in
is God's won-drous world: e-ven if my heart be sad, let
rocks and trees, of skies and seas; God's hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-ting grass or moun-tain pass, God's voice speaks ev-ery where.
voic-es sing, let the heav-ens ring! God reigns, let earth be glad!

*CONFESSION AND
ASSURANCE OF
GOD'S GRACE

**Gracious God, you call us to be rooted and grounded in love.
If we're honest, our roots are often planted in the soil of pride,
self-interest, and tribalism. You call us to be rooted in our faith so
that our whole lives bear the fruits of our discipleship, but we
relegate our faith to Sundays. We choose to root our lives in the
pursuits of money and social status. Forgive us, God. Help us to
reclaim the roots of our faith and to experience the fruits of your
Spirit in our lives.**
(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 fall - ing ov - er you.
grow - ing in you.

TIME WITH YOUNG
DISCIPLES (9:30)

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION

READING Jeremiah 17:7-8

READING Colossians 2:6-7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord,
**continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him
and established in the faith, just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving.**

ANTHEM

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

Negro spiritual

arr. J. Rosamond Johnson (9:30) arr. Moses Hogan (11:00)

My soul's been anchored in the Lord.
Before I'd stay in hell one day (my soul's been anchored in the Lord),
I'd sing and pray myself away (my soul's been anchored in the Lord).

Going to shout and pray and never stop
(my soul's been anchored in the Lord),
until I reach the mountaintop (my soul's been anchored in the Lord).

Do you love him? O yes! Hallelujah!
God Almighty! Are you anchored?
O yes, I'm anchored, my soul's been anchored in the Lord.

Will you serve him? Will you praise him?
God Almighty! Are you anchored?
Yes, I'm anchored; Lord, I'm anchored; Lord, I'll serve you;
Lord, I'll praise you. Hallelujah!
My soul's been anchored in the Lord.

READING

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.
I pray that, according to the riches of his glory,
he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being
with power through his Spirit
and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.
I pray that you may have the power to comprehend,
with all the saints,
what is the breadth and length and height and depth
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

SERMON

Rooted and Grounded – in What?

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN 837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

SHOWALTER

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.**

WELCOMING NEW
MEMBERS (11:00)

SACRAMENT OF
BAPTISM (11:00)

Ben Anders

OFFERINGS

Within us flows a river

Mark Miller/Lindy Thompson (9:30)

we are trees along its banks drawing in our sustenance,
giving back our thanks.

Our strength is gained in stages 'til in season we bear fruit.

Living water brings us life, nourishing each root.

The Spirit is the river; so dwells God within the soul,
nourishing the fallowness, making fragments whole.

The flow of love sustains us, grace and mercy make us clean;
broken hearts begin to heal, new growth can be seen.

God, be in the tree, in the bud, and in the flower.

May we bring forth fruit at the Spirit's chosen hour.

Cultivate our faith, prune our worry and regret;

drawing strength from you, may we blossom for you yet.

This heartfelt song was written by Argentinian composer and pastor Pablo Sosa (1933-2020). In its vividly poetic text, the church is imagined to root, grow, and flourish with nature's beauty and God's justice.

May This Church be Like a Tree

Que esta iglesia sea un árbol
en el fondo de tu casa,
que haya fiesta y alegría
y oración bajo sus ramas.
Con raíces bien profundas
y sus brazos hacia el cielo,
que esta iglesia sea fecunda,
dando frutos de consuelo.
Árbol plantado junto a las aguas.
de vida eterna de nuestro Dios.

Pablo Sosa/Andrew Donaldson (11:00)

May this church be like a tree,
behind your house, there in your garden;
meeting place for joy and feast,
and simple prayer beneath its branches.
With its roots in earth so fertile,
and its arms raised high to heaven,
may this church bear fruits of justice,
acts of loving and compassion.
Tree ever growing, by living water,
running eternal, flowing from God.

May this church be like a tree, there in the street or in the plaza;
for the birds, a nesting branch; for passersby, a welcome shelter.
May it stand as if it's watching, near my house, just round the corner,
waiting for this weary pilgrim with its arms wide to embrace me.
May this church be like a tree, O God, that thrives where you have planted.
May it stand to show the way, your way of loving and self-giving,
offering shade, and fruit for sharing, giving up its wood for burning.
May this living church that names you be a tree of life eternal.



Text WMPC to 73256 to give.

Scan to give

*AFFIRMATION
OF FAITH

the Apostle's Creed

We Go In God's Name

*HYMN 821

My Life Flows On in Endless Song
stanza 1 - choir
stanzas 2, 3, 4 - all

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*CHARGE AND
BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE



Scan to make a Prayer Request

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

IN THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Carole C. Sawicki – September 15, 2026

George Marsh – September 22, 2026

WMPC family members: wife, Catie Marsh, son Sam Marsh and fiancé Bailey Morton; and son Nate Marsh

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Margie Mould and Tom Mould, and Brenda Mould and Carolyn McMullen, on the marriage of their daughter and granddaughter, Sarah Mould to William Vose, September 12, Pleasant Garden, 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.

PRAYERS AND CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

Carol Newcomb and family on the death of her brother, Lloyd Keith Powers, September 12, Richmond, VA

Stanford Baird and family on the death of his father, Dr. Jay W. Baird, September 13, Oxford, OH

Lisa Crumpler and family on the death of her mother, Mary Spears Briggs, September 19, Raleigh, NC

WORSHIP | EMBRACE | SERVE

in the manner of Christ

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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Sunday, September 27

Monday, September 28

- Bridge with Friends
- Tai Chi
- All Are Welcome

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 1

- Keenagers

Friday, October 2

Saturday, October 3

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](#).

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. Oberlin 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.

DON'T FORGET YOUR FLU SHOT

Wednesday October 7 | 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | K200

Thursday October 15 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | K200

Don't let flu season catch you off guard! All members and staff are invited to come get their flu shot. You must be at least 7 years old to receive a flu shot. Please bring your insurance card.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,
 lean-ing on Je-sus, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
 ing, lean-ing, Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.

TEXT: Elsie A. Hoffman, 1887

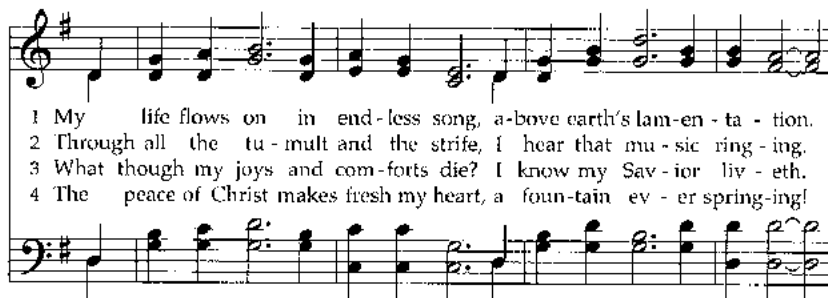
MUSIC: Anthony J. Shawalter, 1887

SHOWALTER
 10.9.10.9 with refrain

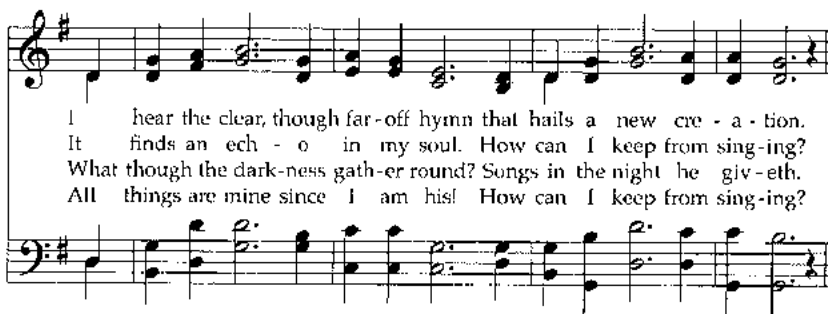
821

My Life Flows On

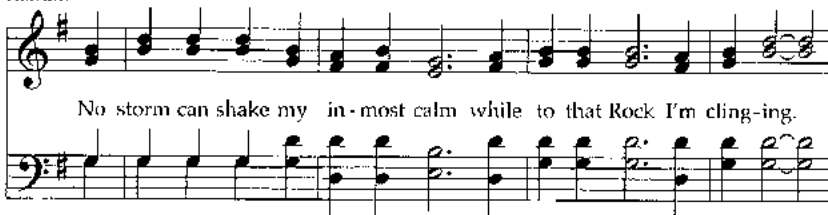
How Can I Keep from Singing?



1 My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav-ior liv-eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



1 I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain


No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

In the *New York Observer* of August 7, 1868, this text was titled "Always Rejoicing," and was attributed to "Pauline T." This may well be where the Baptist pastor and musician to whom it is usually credited encountered the words that he later published with his tune.