

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday | August 23 | 2026
9:30 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.



Photograph by Rev. Cate Church Norman

Preacher

Cate Church Norman

Liturgists

Alli Buikema Cooper | Tom Harris

Musicians

Katrina Liao | Eric Nanz | Eric Wall | 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

Give thanks to God!

Celebrate God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

When we cry out,

God listens to us and answers us.

Let us sing the ways of God

who walks with us in the midst of trouble,

who gives us a sense of purpose,

and whose steadfast love endures forever.

*HYMN 353

*We worship Jesus, the
solid Rock, who said
that he would build
God's church upon
Peter the rock.*

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

**Inviting God, you come to us with a love that is steadfast and eternal.
You ask us to find our truest purpose in you; but we get distracted by
the things of this world that seem important or even just
entertaining. You ask us to acknowledge who you are; but we can
be confused and blind to even who we are. Forgive us when we get
lost in our own minds, our own worries and in the ways of the world.
Help us find our way back to you, where we confess that you are our
living God. Help us walk in your ways and be examples of your
steadfast love. We pray in the name of Jesus.**

(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 pres-ence bow.

TIME WITH YOUNG
DISCIPLES

We Proclaim God's Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION

May I Be Empty

Batya Levine

May I be emp-ty and o-pen to re- ceive_____ the light. May I be
emp-ty 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.

PSALM READING

Psalms 138

NEW TESTAMENT
READING

Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON

Who Do You Say That I Am?

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN 702

*Adapted from the Prayer
of St. Patrick, this hymn
affirms Christ's presence
in all parts of our lives.*

Christ Be Beside Me

BUNESSAN

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

(9:30) Duo for Viola and Cello in E-flat

Ludwig van Beethoven

(11:00) The Stranger's Guise

Karen Marroli, composer

We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating pace, drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place.
And with the sacred name of the Triune God,
they blessed us and our house
and our cattle and our dear ones.
As the lark says in her song,
“Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise.”



Text WMPC to 73256 to Give.

Scan to Give

***AFFIRMATION
OF FAITH**

from the Iona Community

**We believe in God,
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus to reconcile
and to make all things new.
We trust God,
who calls us to be the church;
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and to resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified, dead 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 544**

*This meditative song
comes from the Taizé
Community, an ecumen-
ical Christian community
in Burgundy, France. In
singing it, we bless the
living God.*

Bless the Lord

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**



Scan to make a Prayer Request

[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

Jared Smith, on the death of his grandmother, Shirley Overcash Allen, August 11, Durham, 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 23

Monday, August 24

- Bridge with Friends
- Pickleball
- All Are Welcome

Tuesday, August 25

- Gentle Yoga

Wednesday, August 26

- Chair Yoga
- Lectio Divina
- Pickleball

Thursday, August 27

- Pet Loss Support Group

Friday, August 28

- Pickleball

Saturday, August 29

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

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 YOUTH WORSHIP BAND

Registration open through September 16

The WMPC Youth Worship Band will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. Questions? Contact Eric Nanz at enanz@whitememorial.org. [Click here to register!](#)

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.

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

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

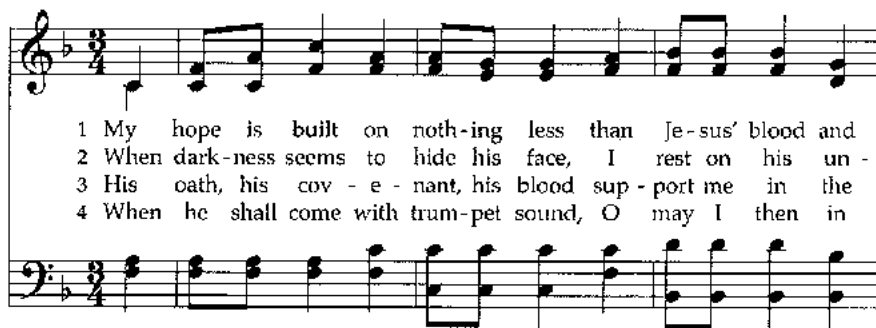
Austin Vernon, Associate Pastor for Outreach and
Community Engagement

Eric Wall, Director of Music

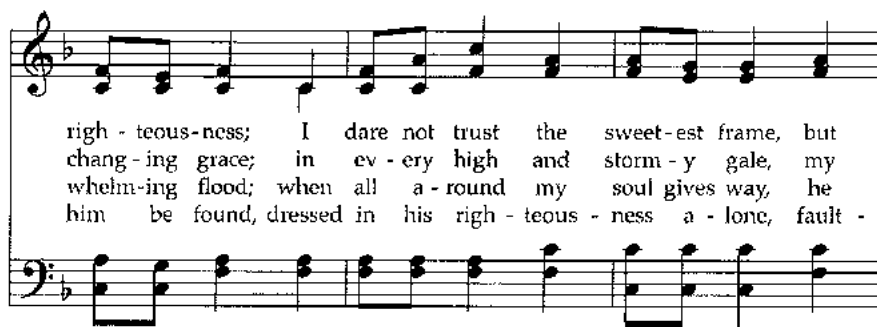
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My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353

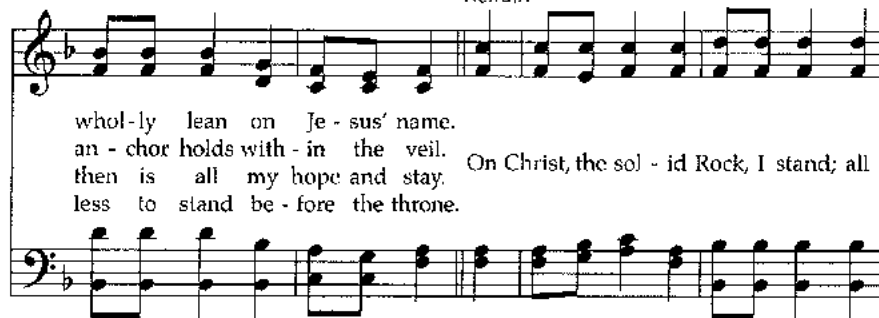


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un-
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



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.

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The treble staff begins with a G4 quarter note, followed by a B-flat4 quarter note, then a D5 quarter note. The bass staff begins with a G2 half note, followed by a B-flat2 half note, then a D3 quarter note. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name."

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The second system of music continues in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The treble staff begins with a G4 quarter note, followed by a B-flat4 quarter note, then a D5 quarter note. The bass staff begins with a G2 half note, followed by a B-flat2 half note, then a D3 quarter note. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life."

This refrain based on Psalm 103:1 is meant for repeated singing. To "bless God's holy name" (which could not be spoken by observant Jews) is a reminder to be grateful even for what we cannot comprehend, trusting that God's providence will show us "the path of life" (Psalm 16:11).

Christ Be Beside Me

702



1 Christ be be - side me; Christ be be - fore me; Christ be be -
 2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all a -
 3 Christ be in all hearts think - ing a - bout me; Christ be on



hind me, King of my heart. Christ be with - in me; Christ be be -
 round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleep - ing, Christ in my
 all tongues tell - ing of me. Christ be the vi - sion in eyes that



low me; Christ be a - bove me, nev - er to part,
 sit - ting, Christ in my ris - ing, Light of my life.
 see me; in ears that hear me Christ ev - er be.

This text adapts part of a traditional Irish prayer associated with St. Patrick (see also no. 6). Such a prayer for protection is known as a *lorica*, from a Latin word for "breastplate" or "armor." It is set to a Gaelic melody that gained wide popularity in the 1970s.

TEXT: James Quinn, SJ, 1969

MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Gribbenhuis, 1985

Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

BUNESSAN

5.5.5.4.11