

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday | September 13 | 2026
9:30 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.



Olive Trees with Yellow Sky and Sun, 1889, Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)

Preacher

Austin Vernon

Liturgists

Cate Church Norman | Grier Booker Richards

Musicians

Katrina Liao | Eric Nanz | Eric Wall | 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

Now Thank We All Our God

Randall Thompson, composer

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We bow with the rolling rocks.

God is our strength and our salvation.

We sing with the roaring rivers.

God is our justice and our joy.

We will never stop telling God's story.

God is the hope of our ancestors.

With all that we have and all that we are, we say:

God is so good!

*HYMN 643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*CONFESSION AND
ASSURANCE OF
GOD'S GRACE

Merciful God, our delight is supposed to come from meditating on your word, day and night. Instead, we fill ourselves with vapid noise and mindless chatter from the world. Like trees planted by streams of water, you invite us to bear fruit that will last, but we choose to be like dry chaff, floating aimlessly, unmoored from the rich nutrients of your love, justice, and mercy. Forgive us, Lord, for our wayward hearts. Remind us that true healing and wholeness comes from your living water. Help us remember that abundant life emanates from roots deeply planted in you.

(Time for silent prayer.)

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!

To God be glory forever!

To God be glory forever!

Alleluia, Amen!

Alleluia, Amen!

¡Gloria a Dios! Gloria a Dios! Gloria en los cielos!
¡Gloria a Dios! Gloria a Dios! Gloria en los cielos!
 ¡A Dios la gloria por siempre!
¡A Dios la gloria por siempre!
 ¡Alleluya, Amén!
¡Alleluya, Amén!

*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 peace fall - ing ov - er you.
 God's peace grow - ing in you.

TIME WITH YOUNG
 DISCIPLES

We Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION

READING

Colossians 2:6-7

READING

Psalm 1

God, let me like a spread-ing tree, grow as I trust in your sure
love. Where loy - al ser - vants of - fer praise with-in your
house, I'll add my voice to glo-ri - fy your ho - ly name.

The musical score is written for a choir or solo voice with piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes or simple chords in the left hand.

SERMON

Instruction for the Way

*AFFIRMATION
OF FAITH

from Romans 8

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

OFFERINGS

The Splendor of the House of God

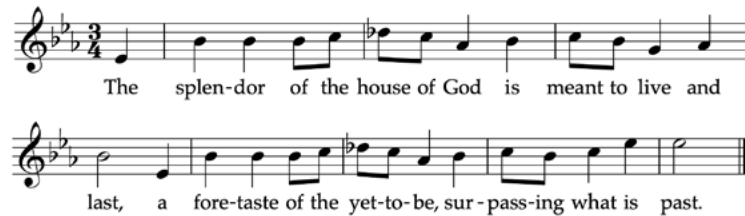
John L. Bell, composer

The splendor of the house of God
is meant to live and last,
a foretaste of the yet-to-be, surpassing what is past.

Walls sturdy and strong, words ancient and new,
doors open to all, words crafted, cherished and true:

A shelter from sin, a gateway for grace,
a patchwork of souls, an earthly, heavenly space:

(all singing refrain)



Through preaching and prayer, through blessed bread and wine,
through welcome and care, through silence, symbol, and sign: *refrain*

May Christ here befriend, anoint and baptize,
provoke and prevent, encourage, dare and surprise. *refrain*

God, break through our praise and summon us out
to prove all our days the Gospel which living stones shout. *refrain*



Text WMPC to 73256 to Give.

Scan to Give

We Share the Lord's Supper

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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.**

BREAKING, POURING
AND SERVING

New Wine

by Hillsong Worship & Brooke Fraser

Hymn 501 Feed Us, Lord

PRAYER AFTER
COMMUNION

We Go In God's Name

*HYMN 743

O God, You Are My God

STEP BY STEP

*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

Henry Eugene "Hank" Graden – September 5, 2026

Husband of Ellen Graden

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Cotten and Jimmy Barnes, on the birth of their grandchildren, Jon Wells "Wells" Barnes and Edward Winston "Teddy" Barnes, September 4, children of Jimbo and Maddie Barnes

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

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 13

Monday, September 14

- PW Luncheon
- Bridge with Friends
- Pickleball
- Tai Chi

Tuesday, September 15

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

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

- Keenagers

Friday, September 18

- Oberlin Rd Churches Pantry Loading

Saturday, September 19

- Servant Saturday + Pancake Breakfast
- Oberlin Rd Churches Drive-Thru Pantry

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

UPCOMING EVENTS: DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE

- 9.14** Women's Circles & Luncheon
- 9.15** Caregiver's Coffee
Cancer Companions
- 9.19** Servant Saturday + Pancake Breakfast
Oberlin Rd. Drive-Thru Pantry
- 9.20** Art, Music & Meditation
Children's Movie Night
Club 4/5 Movie Night
Parenting Workshop with Laura Brimberry

SUPPER CLUBS

This is a short-term small group initiative meant to gather folks around the table to share a meal and fellowship. When you register, you will be placed in a group of 8-10 people. Your Supper Club will commit to meeting three times, 1x/month from September-November at times decided by the group. A short liturgy will be provided to frame your time together. Supper Clubs may meet in homes or at restaurants. Contact Anne Galliher with questions. [Register here.](#)

SERVANT SATURDAY + PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday September 19 | 9:00 a.m. - Noon | WMPC Campus

Join us for our Third Annual Pancake Breakfast & Servant Saturday! Start your morning off right with a delicious pancake breakfast from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Then roll up your sleeves and be part of Servant Saturday, where we'll dive into hands-on projects that bless our community outreach partners. All ages are welcome—[RSVP if you can](#) (it helps us plan). Want to flip some pancakes and spread some joy? Sign up [here to volunteer](#) for the breakfast.

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 at the White Memorial Weekday School. To register, email Cynthia Baggett at cbaggett@whitememorial.org.

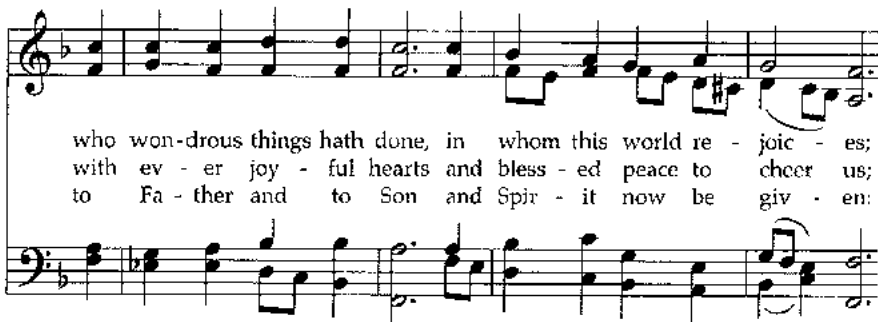
BOY SCOUTS AND 4TH GRADE WEBELOS PROGRAM

White Memorial is the chartered organization for Pack 395 and Troop 395. The Pack consists of 4th and 5th grade Webelos, a preparatory program that enables boys to immediately excel when transitioning to Boy Scouts (the Troop). Our Scouting program is one of the largest and most active in the district. We have places for starting 4th graders in Webelos or 6th graders in Troop 395. Church members and siblings of current Scouts are given priority for the spaces we have available in Webelos. If you are interested please contact Emmett Perdue at bearschoice99@yahoo.com.

643 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,



who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:



who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

O God, You Are My God 743

Step by Step

O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise
 you. O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise
 you. I will seek you in the morn - ing, and I will
 learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead
 me, and I will fol-low you all of my days.

Though this refrain from a longer song is not a paraphrase of any particular psalm, the language in the first six lines has definite scriptural overtones (such as Psalms 31:14, 5:3; Deuteronomy 26:17). The final two lines sound more spontaneous and lead to a confident conclusion.