

Date: September 17, 2023
Season of the Holy Spirit
Welcome to New Members

Prayer of Preparation

Anne Osdieck

Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often must I forgive? To receive forgiveness can be cheerful to us. We can feel great peace and joy, like walking out of jail. But forgiving others, not so easy. Jesus, please help us break those bonds of our refusal to forgive! Grant us your strength to remove our shackles. Teach us to forgive others in the way you forgive us. Forgive, and then forget.

No strings attached. Amen.

Gathering in the Presence of God

**Please stand as able, in body or in spirit*

Gathering Music

Come, Let us All Go Down

Traditional

Welcome

***Call to Worship** (responsively)

Liturgist

Sing songs of hope and peace.

God's love and power have lifted us.

Sing songs of mercy and grace.

God's mercy and forgiveness frame our lives.

Thanks be to God for all God's love and mercy.

Praise be to God for the healing power God extends to each one of us.

Amen.

***Hymn**

God, How Can We Forgive

GTG 445

Confessing Our Separation from God (unison)

Liturgist

Just like Peter, Lord, we want to get all “legalistic” about forgiveness. We want to know if one time to forgive someone is sufficient. We might even be willing to extend forgiveness twice, but we tend to follow the adage, “Once burned, twice shy.” Teach us to be humble and merciful. Remind us of the many ways in which you have offered, time and time again, your forgiving love to us. Heal our wounds and bind up our brokenness. For we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Jesus, Draw Me Close

Rick Founds

Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus, draw me close;
Closer, Lord, to You.
For I desire to worship and obey.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

We Hear God’s Word

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

Anthem

Home

Phillip Phillip

Duet: Tina Marie Casamento & Hadyn Carter-Hanson

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Liturgist

Source: The Message

Reflection

Preaching

We Respond to God's Word

Reception of New Members

Silvia Ritchie &

Lois Gillespie, Pro-Tem Clerk of Session

New members gather in the front as their names are called.

1. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? And do you trust him?

New members: I do.

2. Do you promise to be faithful and obey to the best of your abilities Christ's word?

New members: I do.

3. Will you bring into the ministry at Westminster PC of Rehoboth Beach the talents and gifts God has given you and commit yourself to growing toward spiritual maturity and witness not only by your words.

New members: I will.

***Affirmation of Faith**

I Believe in Jesus

Marc Nelson

Joys and Hopes of the People of God & The Lord's Prayer

Offertory:

Softly and Tenderly

GTG 418

The Act of Gratitude

***Doxology: An Expression of Faith to God**

GTG 606

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

Liturgist

Patient Lord, you amaze us each day with your ability to forgive our many sins. You display merciful acts and answer our prayers in profound ways. Help us to be stewards of your mercy and grace as these monetary gifts are transformed into active ministries. Multiply the span of these ministries to reach people in new ways. We pray in the name of the one who teaches true forgiveness, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Follow God's Word into the World

***Hymn**

Amazing Grace

GTG 649

***Benediction**

Postlude

Taking it to the Streets

Michael McDonald

Next Week's Liturgist: Marylea Franz

WORSHIP TEAM

Rev. Eddie Jusino

Liturgist Pam Jusino

Ushers: Greg Estes and Adele Trout

Music: David Libby

Soloists: Tina Marie Casamento and Hadyn Carter-Hanson

The Westminster Choir

A/V Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – NOVEMBER 8 @ 10am - Adult Ed Bible Study returns with Alan Keohane's "Picturing Scripture", an engaging online Bible Study.

Sept. 20 & 27 – Early Church

Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25 – Paul's Missions

Nov. 1 & 8 – Paul's Letters 2nd Missionary Journey

Please join us for these interesting and thought-provoking sessions via Zoom. The link will be accessible on the Back of the Bulletin email and on WPC's website.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 @ 10am – SUNDAY SERVICE – Join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. Light snacks and refreshments sponsored by the Fellowship and Membership Teams.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7@ 9:00am – BOARDWALK BUDDY WALK – Join us as we unite for a common cause and raise funds for the 2023 Boardwalk Buddy Walk®. Whether you have Down syndrome, know someone who does, or just want to show your support, take the first step and donate or register today! Contact Silvia Ritchie (302-604-9529 or silaxritchie@gmail.com) to walk with Westminster and get a free-t-shirt. Help us spread the word; all are welcome for our day of celebration!

Westminster has been a proud sponsor of the Buddy Walk over 11 years!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER – more to come

Surgery and Post-Surgery:

David Libby

Long-term Illness:

Scot Ashe