

CALL TO CONFESSION

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be. Hear now our confession of those times when we have forgotten to tend and nurture the good seed you planted in us.

CONFESSION OF SIN

*When we deprive others of the opportunity to thrive and blossom,
forgive us.*

*When we want to uproot those whom we believe
do not belong in our part of the field,
forgive us.*

*When we label others as good or bad
rather than accept them for who they are,
forgive us.*

*When we are reluctant to acknowledge
that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,
forgive us.*

*When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives
to see what is growing there,
forgive us.*

*When we forget that we are called to plant and water,
and God gives the growth,
forgive us.*

*O God, plant a seed in your people now. Plant a
seed of peace, a seed of forgiveness, and a seed of grace.
Help us to grow.*

SILENT PRAYERS

SUNG RESPONSE

HS No. 68

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*God's seeds of love have already been sown in your midst. Come and see the love of God
outpoured for you. You are God's beloved ones. Come, live in the light of God.*

Amen.

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*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HS No. 22

**All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth from heaven,
And God's good will unfailingly be to all people given.
We bless, we worship You, we raise
For Your great glory thanks and praise,
O God, the great Creator.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

GOD'S WORD TO US

ANTHEM

Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee
Ellie Weikle, soprano

S. S. Wesley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

(NT pg. 18)

THE SERMON

Anyone with a Green Thumb?

Carson Rhyne
General Presbyter/Stated Clerk,
Presbytery of the James

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that God created the earth, and that everything
in the earth belongs to God.**

**We believe that God has given us this nation and blessed us
with freedom and plenty.**

**We believe that freedom and plenty carry certain responsibilities:
that we are to love justice and mercy, and walk humbly with our God;
that we are to share our gifts with those who have less,
both in this nation and in other nations; and that we are to live with gratitude,
thanking God for the every gift we have received.**

**We believe in the Church as the fellowship of Christ's followers,
worshiping and learning, teaching and growing, until that day when
we celebrate God's reign both on earth and in heaven. Amen.**

*HYMN *There's Wideness in God's Mercy* No. 298

PRAYER CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION
CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal, p. 16)

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY *Wayfaring Stranger* arr. J. J. Niles
Ellie Weikle, soprano

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING No. 591
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Lord, today we remember the poor and hungry of this world,
and worship you now by sharing what we have with them.
Take our gifts and give them wings to bring hope to a weary world.
Through Christ who commanded us to love one another, Amen.

*HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West* No. 440
[During the hymn, the congregation is invited to respond by bringing forward
our Presbytery Hunger Offering for hunger relief work.]

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Lobe den Herren* Max Dreischner
(Choralfantasie)



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Charlottesville, Virginia

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 30, 2017

*And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen!
A sower went out to sow..."*

Matthew 13:3

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

*O God,
We bless thee that
thou wilt continue
To be the hope of
the dying, the friend
of the poor, the
leader of leaders,
the succor of the
tempted, the light of
the wanderer, the
joy of the pilgrim,
and the prosperity
of the thy church.
Amen.*

William Sloan
Coffin, Jr.

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Dawn Hymn* Alan Hovhaness

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord our God is a mighty God!

God demands truth and holiness in the world.

The Lord our God is a jealous God!

Let us turn from our sinful ways and praise God's name.

The Lord our God is loving God!

In love let us tune our hearts to worship!

*HYMN *Come! Live in the Light* see insert

*Congregation may stand. #Latecomers seated.
Please turn off cell phones during the service.