

## CALL TO CONFESSION

*We all sin and fall short of God's hope and promise, but we sin in different ways.  
Acknowledging that we are part of a system of racism and segregation, let us confess our  
sins and commend them to God's love and grace.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

**God of all creation,  
you made humans in your image and blessed us so that we would be a blessing.  
Instead, we have perverted that blessing and claimed it only for some.  
You have called us to remember you  
as the God who brought your people out of slavery.  
Instead, we have attempted to forget the past rather than reckon with it.  
We have created a deeply racialized world  
and we wonder why nothing seems to change.  
We have separated ourselves from one another  
and from the God who created each of us.  
We have failed to realize the fullness of Dr. King's dream in our city.  
We have failed to be fully inclusive  
and accepting of those who do not worship as we do.  
O God, forgive us, convict us, teach us, encourage us,  
and grant us another day to work for justice  
and to reach out to brothers and sisters in Christ,  
whatever their race or ethnicity may be.**

## 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

*Hear now what the Apostle Paul wrote to his church in Galatia: "As many of you as  
were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew  
or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all  
of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that all things are possible with God and  
that God continues to mold God's church into an instrument of grace and acceptance,  
hear now the good news:*

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

#

## \*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

### GOD'S WORD TO US

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Kings 17:5-13

(OT pg. 333)

#### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 19:21-41

(NT pg. 131)

*The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

#### SERMON

After Ephesus, After Charlottesville

Valerie Cooper

### OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

#### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Belhar Confession)

**We believe in the triune God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
who gathers, protects, and cares for the church.**

**We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints  
called from the entire human family.**

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church  
as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God**

**and one another; that unity is, therefore,  
a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ;**

**We believe that God is revealed as the one  
who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.**

**We believe that the church must therefore stand by people  
in any form of suffering or need,**

**so that justice may roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.**

\*HYMN (11:00) *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* No. 369

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

THE OFFERING  
OFFERTORY *Shall We Gather at the River* Robert Lowry  
Megan Sharp, soprano arr. Luigi Zaninelli

\*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

CONFIRMATION (11:00)

\*HYMN *This Little Light of Mine* HS No. 54

[During the hymn, the congregation is invited to respond by bringing forward  
our Presbytery Hunger Offering for hunger relief work.]

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Toccata* Eugene Gigout



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

Charlottesville, Virginia

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 24, 2017

*"I think it is one of the tragedies of our nation, one of the shameful tragedies,  
that 11:00 on Sunday morning is one of the most segregated hours in Christian  
America."*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Adagio* Nancy Plummer Faxon

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*We have come to the mountain,*

**We have come to find reconciliation and peace.**

*We peer over the mountain to see the promise on the other side,*

**But there is still trouble in the land; confusion is all around.**

*Our brothers and sisters are still dying; clashes in our city streets  
remind us of days long past; we are still torn apart by hatred.*

**We have come together to the mountain,  
seeking reconciliation and peace.**

*Come. Let us lift our prayers and voices to God.*

#

\*HYMN *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* No. 429

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

## PRAYER AND MEDITATION

*As we gather,  
envision the  
intercultural com-  
munity surrounding  
you. The beloved  
community for Dr.  
Martin Luther  
King, Jr., was an  
achievable goal.  
It is a place where  
people of different  
races and cultures  
live together in  
community.  
Envision how you  
will commit today  
to build an inter-  
cultural community,  
with God's help,  
where racial  
equality is  
prevalent. What is  
getting in the way?  
What steps will you  
take today to love  
more deeply? In  
this next hour  
together, believe  
that building this  
community is  
possible.  
Amen.*