

## LITANY OF CONFESSION

*Mighty and gracious God, you are silence; you are mighty wings;  
wrestler; blessing; holy one of Israel; lover of souls; and mysterious trinity.  
Your ways are great and reach beyond what we can imagine.*

**You hold all time and space  
in the palm of your hand.**

*We give you thanks for all of the blessings you bring into our lives. You will not be imitated, and you will not be narrowly defined.*

**You hold all time and space  
in the palm of your hand.**

*Yet we confess that we have not trusted you to be present with us. In times of trial and heartache, we have not opened ourselves up to your calming and quieting love.*

**You hold all time and space  
in the palm of your hand.**

*Trusting in your grace and mercy that we may leave this place forgiven, renewed and strengthened for the journey, we come to you. Listen to the wrestlings of our hearts and minds.*

**O Lord, hear our prayers.**

## SILENT PRAYERS

## SUNG RESPONSE

HS No. 71

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Hear the Good News! God not only listens to the cries on our lips, but also pays attention to the groaning of our hearts. God restores us to wholeness, and invites us to a new way of living.*

**We are welcomed. We are loved. We are forgiven.**  
*Receive God's gifts of grace and peace through Jesus Christ.*  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 256

**Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."  
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "God is our eternal King."  
Praise God, all ye hosts above, ever shining forth in love.  
Sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!**

## \*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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON                      Isaiah 35:1-10                      OT pg. 623

ANTHEM                      *Lift Thine Eyes*                      Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

GOSPEL LESSON                      Mark 7:24-37                      NT pg. 40  
*The word of the Lord.                      Thanks be to God.*

SERMON                      *"Stories Move The Walls . . . ."*                      Ken Henry

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### \*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world, we declare with joy and trust:*

**Our world belongs to God!**

*From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until God's kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever.*

**Our world belongs to God!**

**We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness,  
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.**

**As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience and set free for joyful praise,  
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in this world.**

**With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,  
we expect the Day of the Lord.**

**And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness  
will fill the earth when Christ appears.**

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

**Our world belongs to you.**

— from *Our World Belongs to God*

\*HYMN *There's a 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 *Be Thou My Vision* Traditional Irish Melody  
(Words, HS No. 41) arr. Linda L. Hanson

\*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING HS No. 81  
**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;  
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth.  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame:  
All glory, honor, to God's name.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Generous God,  
you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all,  
your own Son, Jesus Christ.  
In thanksgiving and praise, we offer to you our time, our money, our very selves.  
In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world.  
Amen.**

\*HYMN *Will You Come and Follow Me* HS No. 43

[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 *Tocatta in F* Johann Pachelbel



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

Charlottesville, Virginia

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 29, 2018

## PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Prelude in E Flat* Alexandre Guilmant

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*This is a place of safety.*

**This is a place of comfort.**

*This is a place of challenge.*

**This is a place of worship.**

*Here and now, the God who made the universe waits to embrace us.*

**Here and now, we seek God's healing  
touch upon our lives.**

*With all that we are: parts that are whole,  
and parts that are broken;*

**parts that are well, and parts that are sick;  
parts that are joyful, and parts that are in pain,  
we come to worship the living God.**

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\*HYMN

*Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above* No. 483

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

## SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

*O Lord, we come  
before you desiring  
strength and hope.*

*In this place of  
shadow and light,  
send your Holy  
Spirit that we might  
be healed and made  
whole—  
emotionally,  
physically,  
intellectually, and  
spiritually.*

*Come, Hopeful  
Light. Come,  
Healing Breath.  
Come, God of Love.  
Amen.*

