

LITANY FOR FINDING HOME

*O God,*  
help us find our way home.

SILENT PRAYERS

SUNG RESPONSE



Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Listen to the promise of the Prophet Isaiah: "Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel....Look and see for everyone is coming home. Your sons are coming from distant lands; your daughters will be carried home. Your eyes will shine and your heart will thrill with joy. For God will be your everlasting light and your days of mourning will come to end."*

Thanks be to God who welcomes us home. Amen.

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\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 479

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven, glad of heart your carols raise;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY 11:00

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 11:00

**GOD'S WORD TO US**

PSALTER	Psalm 126	OT p. 541
ANTHEM	<i>When God Delivered Israel</i>	Norman Warren
GOSPEL LESSON	Luke 15:17-24	NT p. 74
SERMON	Returning Home	Ken Henry

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God  
in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

from the Brief Statement of Faith, 1983

\*HYMN 11:00 *Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here* HS No. 25

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal, p. 16

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY 8:30 *Invention 12* J.S. Bach  
11:00 *I Will Arise* Robert Creighton

\*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

HS No. 83

Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord we offer as your gift.  
Young and old your praise expressing, our glad song to you we lift.  
All the saints in heav'n adore you, we would join their glad acclaim;  
as your angels serve before you, so on earth we praise your name.



*Westminster Presbyterian Church*  
*Charlottesville, Virginia*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer our gifts to you  
with grateful, cheerful hearts.  
Thank you for meeting our needs,  
providing what we need when we need it.  
Trusting you, we share what we have with others.  
This we do in Jesus`name. Amen.

\*HYMN

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

see insert

\*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Praeludium in G Minor*

Johann Peter Kellner

**SILENT  
PRAYER AND  
MEDITATION**

*This day, O God,  
we are like those  
who dream. For  
so long we have  
sown tears, for so  
long we have  
scattered the  
seeds of weeping.  
We have sat in  
darkness longing  
for light. But  
today, we are  
coming home. Oh,  
run to us with  
open arms, that  
we might embrace  
you with gladness.  
Amen.*

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 21, 2018

**PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

*The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place  
where we can go as we are and not be questioned.*

Maya Angelou

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Adagio, Sonata I*

C. P. E. Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Where is home?*

**Home is where the heart resides.**

*Home is where God's Spirit chooses to dwell.*

**Home is here among God's people,**

*among prophets and exiles, strangers and friends. Where is home?*

**Home is the place we leave and return to.**

*"Home is where, when you have to go there,*

**they have to take you in."**

*Home is the place we long to find.*

**Home is the place where we long to be found.**

*May justice dwell in the wilderness.*

**May righteousness abide in a fruitful field.**

*May God's people find their way home.*

#

\*HYMN

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

No. 280

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\*Congregation may stand. #Latecomers seated.

*Please turn off cell phones during the service.*
