

# Service for the Lord's Day

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia  
www.westminsterva.org · 434-293-3133



## Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

*Ciacona*

Georg Muffat

Welcome

### ◆ Call to Worship

*May we remember*

**that God created.**

*May we remember*

**that God liberated.**

*May we remember*

**that God fed.**

*May we remember*

**that God is still creating,**

**God is still liberating,**

**and God is still feeding us.**

*Let this be our story. Let this be where we begin.*

**Let us worship God!**

### ◆ Hymn 17

**Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!** WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we admit to remembering the wrong things. We remember worldly lessons such as, "Everyone for themselves." And yet we forget to love our neighbors as ourselves and to live like the body of Christ. Why is it so hard to remember the right things?**

**Release us from our muscle memory and re-center us in a fresh place, a space rooted in your love. Help us to receive your Word anew, and to consider stewardship not with the world's rules, but with your rules. Help us remember. With hope we pray.**

Silent Prayers

Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal no. 576

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Friends, in baptism God claimed us and joined us to Christ, as branches to a vine.*

*Believe the promise given to us: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

- ◆ Sung Response  
**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!**

# God's Word to Us

A Time with Children and Youth

Sung Prayer for Illumination  
 Listen to the word that God has spoken;  
 listen to the One who is close at hand;  
 listen to the voice that began creation;  
 listen even if you don't understand.

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7 OT p. 596  
Barry Parks

Anthem *As Long as We Follow* Joseph Kabemba  
 As long as we follow in the way that God is leading,  
 we know God's reign will surely come.  
 We know this. Yes, God's reign will surely come.

As long as we hope there is a future for creation,  
 a future for the universe.  
 We know this. Yes, God's reign will surely come.

Second Reading John 15:1-8 NT p. 103

Sermon Hang In, Branch Out Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

## Responding to God's Word

- ◆ Affirmation of Faith from the *Iona Abbey*

*With the whole church:*  
**We affirm that we are made in God's image,  
 befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

*With people everywhere:*  
**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
 planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

*With all creation:*  
**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;  
 the unfolding promises of God, forever at work in  
 ourselves and the world.**

- ◆ Hymn 36 **For the Fruit of All Creation** AR HYD Y NOS

Prayers of the Congregation and the Lord's Prayer  
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts  
as we forgive our debtors,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Story of Transformation: Lucy Burnette

Offertory *Jesus, You Are a Stone* Carson Cooman

Jesus, you are a stone and the city is water,  
round you the ripples spread out—  
circles of praise as the crowd shouts hosanna,  
you set off the center and shout:  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Jesus, you are a stone and the city is water,  
water in which you go down.  
Over you rise many fathoms of power,  
with violence concealed in its calm:  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Jesus, you are a stone and the city is water,  
bitter, no life-giving spring.  
Here is a wonder: you sweeten the water,  
we come to the city and sing:  
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

◆ Presentation of the Offering

HS 82

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

◆ Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Gracious God... we give because we love, and that's what love does.*

**So take these gifts and remind us that we belong to one another.  
Remind us that all money narratives are welcome here.  
Remind us that whatever shame or guilt we bring with us will be washed away  
with your empathy and love.  
Remind us, and then help us to build that more beautiful world.  
In hope we pray. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 733

**We All Are One in Mission** ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELEIN

◆ Charge and Benediction

◆ Passing of the Peace

*May the peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

*The flowers today celebrate the first wedding anniversary of Hope and Hayden Atkins, who were married in this sanctuary one year ago today, from the Warren/Atkins family.*

*Some liturgies for this year's stewardship season are adapted from "Our Money Story" by A Sanctified Art.*

## What's Happening

*at Westminster*

### **Sunday, October 8**

*Stewardship Kickoff*

9:30 a.m. Church School Hour

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Noon Stewardship Packet Pickup in the Gathering Place

12:15 p.m. Singers Rehearsal in the Choir Room

12:15 p.m. UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

12:30 p.m. Session Meeting in the Library

### **Monday, October 9**

6:30 p.m. UKirk Dinner and Discussion in Common Grounds

### **Tuesday, October 10**

Noon Adult Potluck Luncheon in the Library

4 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study in the Lower Lounge

### **Wednesday, October 11**

3:30 p.m. Communion Service at WCBR

7 p.m. 20/30/40 CreW Wednesday Wind-Down (off site)

### **Thursday, October 12**

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room

### **Saturday, October 14**

*A Celebration of Black Spirituals with Dr. Brandon Boyd*

1 p.m. Lecture by Dr. Boyd

2:15 to 5:15 p.m. Choir Workshop

5:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Concert—free and open to the public

### **Sunday, October 15**

8:30 a.m. Worship in Common Grounds

9:30 a.m. Church School Hour for all ages; in the Library,  
a special presentation by Dr. Brandon Boyd

12:15 p.m. UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

12:15 p.m. Deacons Meeting in the Upper Lounge

1 p.m. CROP Walk

7 p.m. Deacons Meeting via Zoom

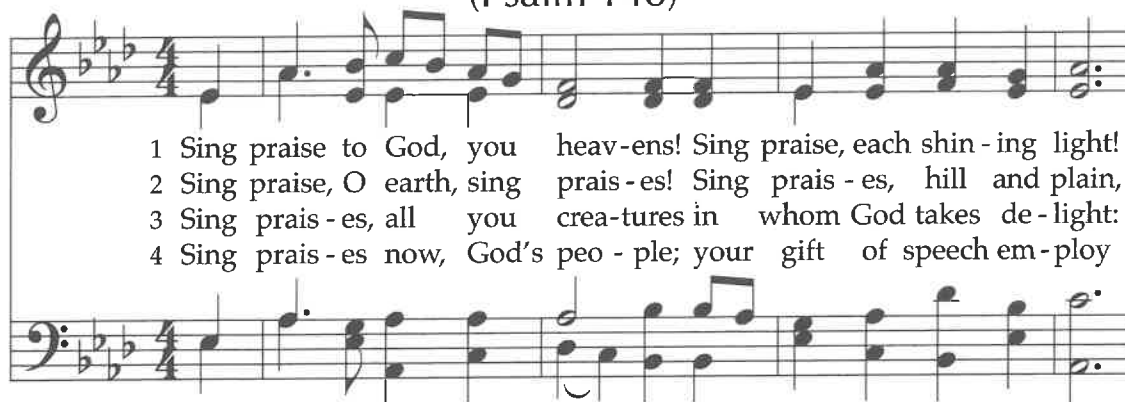
Welcome to the Westminster community. Make sure you're signed up for our eNews, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, @westminsterville. Visit [www.westminsterva.org](http://www.westminsterva.org).

To give, scan the QR code to the right.

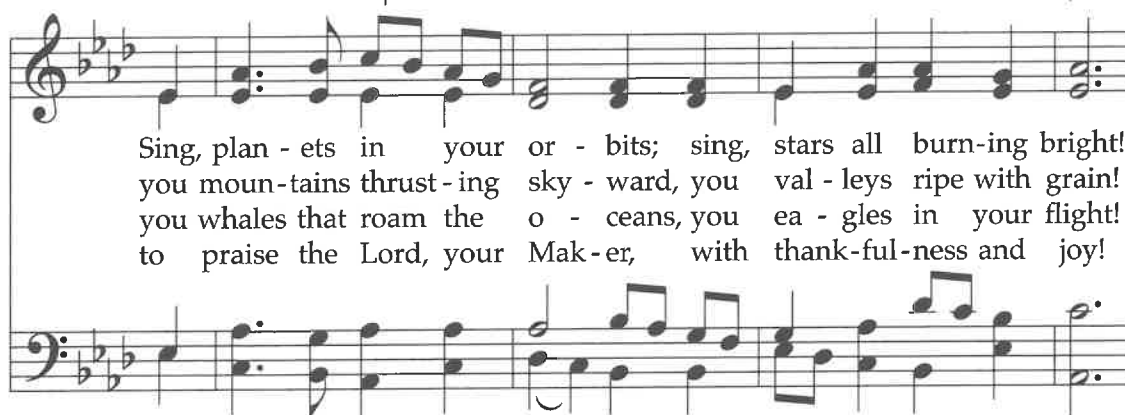


## Sing Praise to God, You Heavens! 17

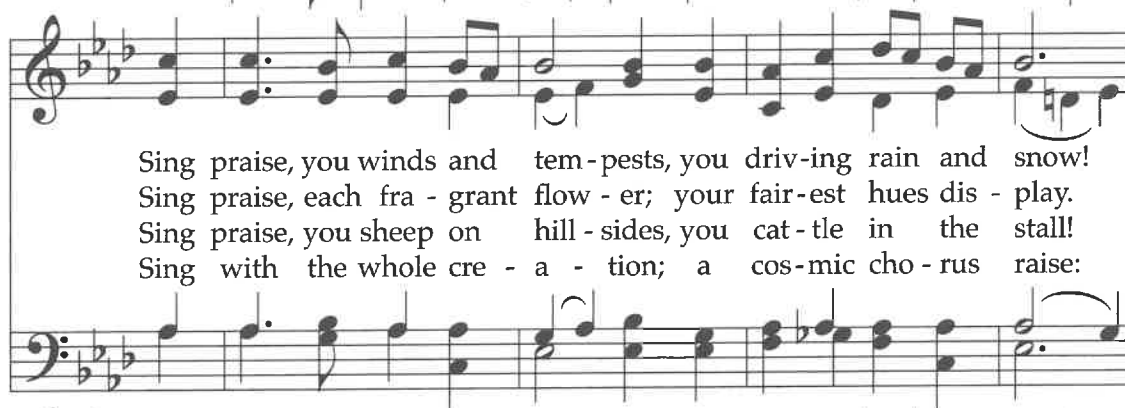
(Psalm 148)



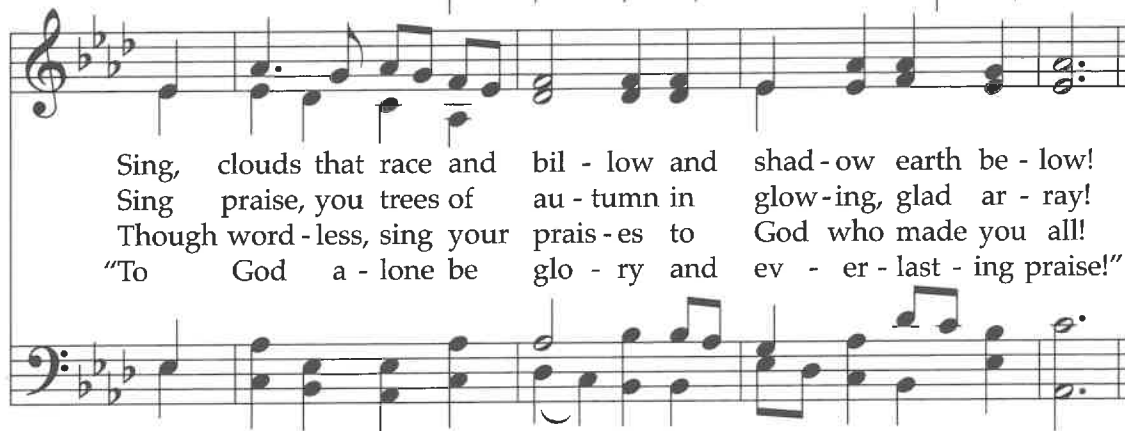
1 Sing praise to God, you heav-ens! Sing praise, each shin - ing light!  
 2 Sing praise, O earth, sing prais - es! Sing prais - es, hill and plain,  
 3 Sing prais - es, all you crea-tures in whom God takes de - light:  
 4 Sing prais - es now, God's peo - ple; your gift of speech em - ploy



Sing, plan - ets in your or - bits; sing, stars all burn - ing bright!  
 you moun - tains thrust - ing sky - ward, you val - leys ripe with grain!  
 you whales that roam the o - ceans, you ea - gles in your flight!  
 to praise the Lord, your Mak - er, with thank - ful - ness and joy!



Sing praise, you winds and tem - pests, you driv - ing rain and snow!  
 Sing praise, each fra - grant flow - er; your fair - est hues dis - play.  
 Sing praise, you sheep on hill - sides, you cat - tle in the stall!  
 Sing with the whole cre - a - tion; a cos - mic cho - rus raise:

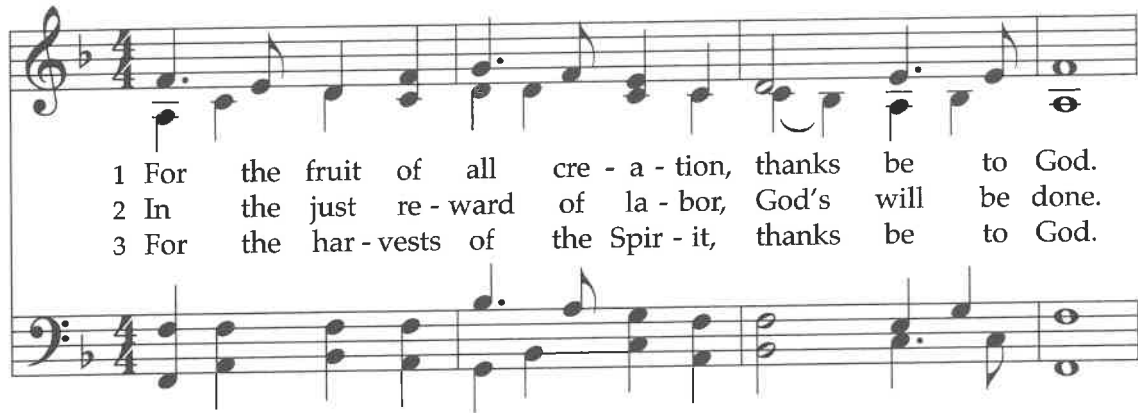


Sing, clouds that race and bil - low and shad - ow earth be - low!  
 Sing praise, you trees of au - tumn in glow - ing, glad ar - ray!  
 Though word - less, sing your prais - es to God who made you all!  
 "To God a - lone be glo - ry and ev - er - last - ing praise!"

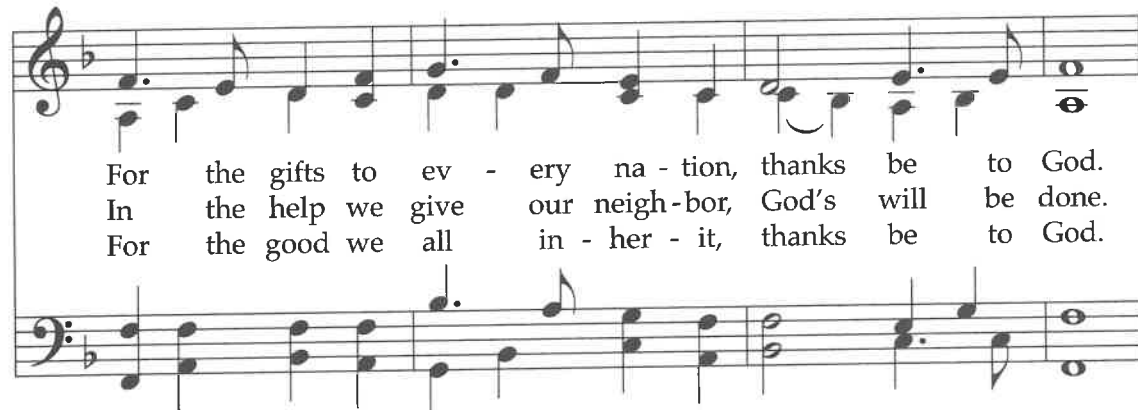
This paraphrase of Psalm 148 reflects the spirit of praise linking Psalms 146–150. Of the two great themes found in these final five psalms—creation and deliverance—this psalm focuses on the former. The opening praise “from the heavens” is matched by praise “from the earth.”

## For the Fruit of All Creation

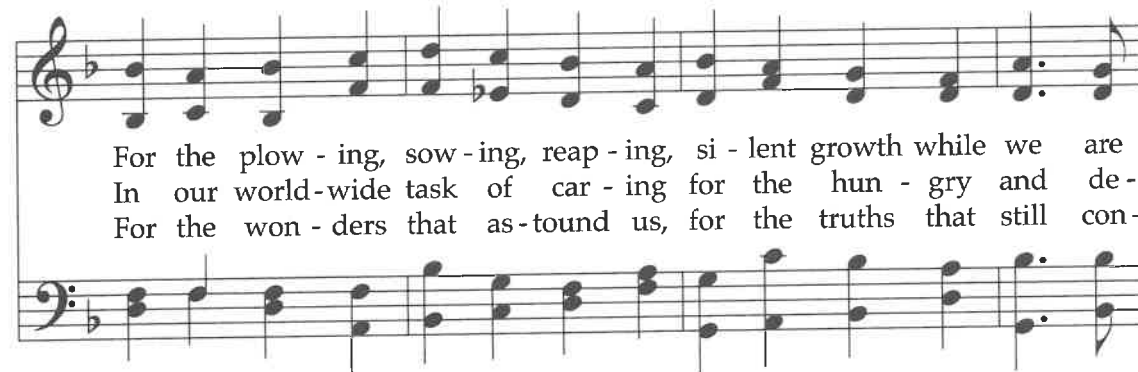
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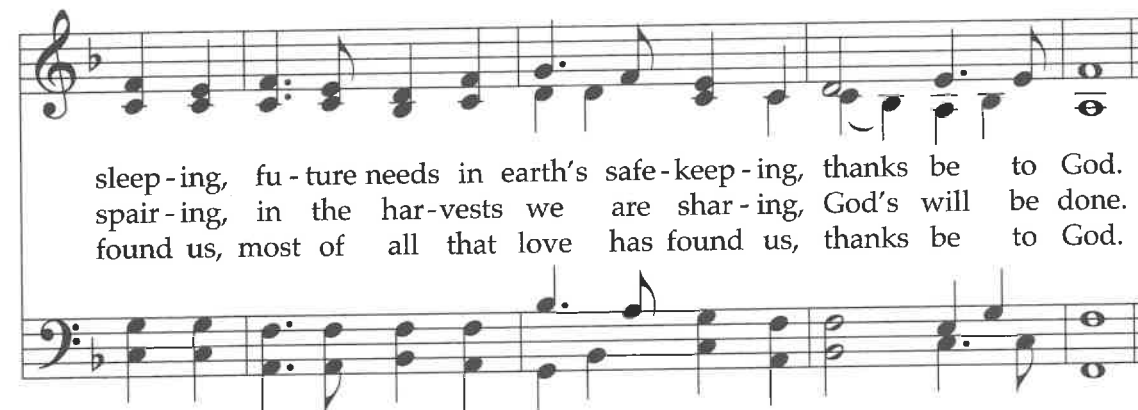
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

# 733 We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
 2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.  
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:  
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
 so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.