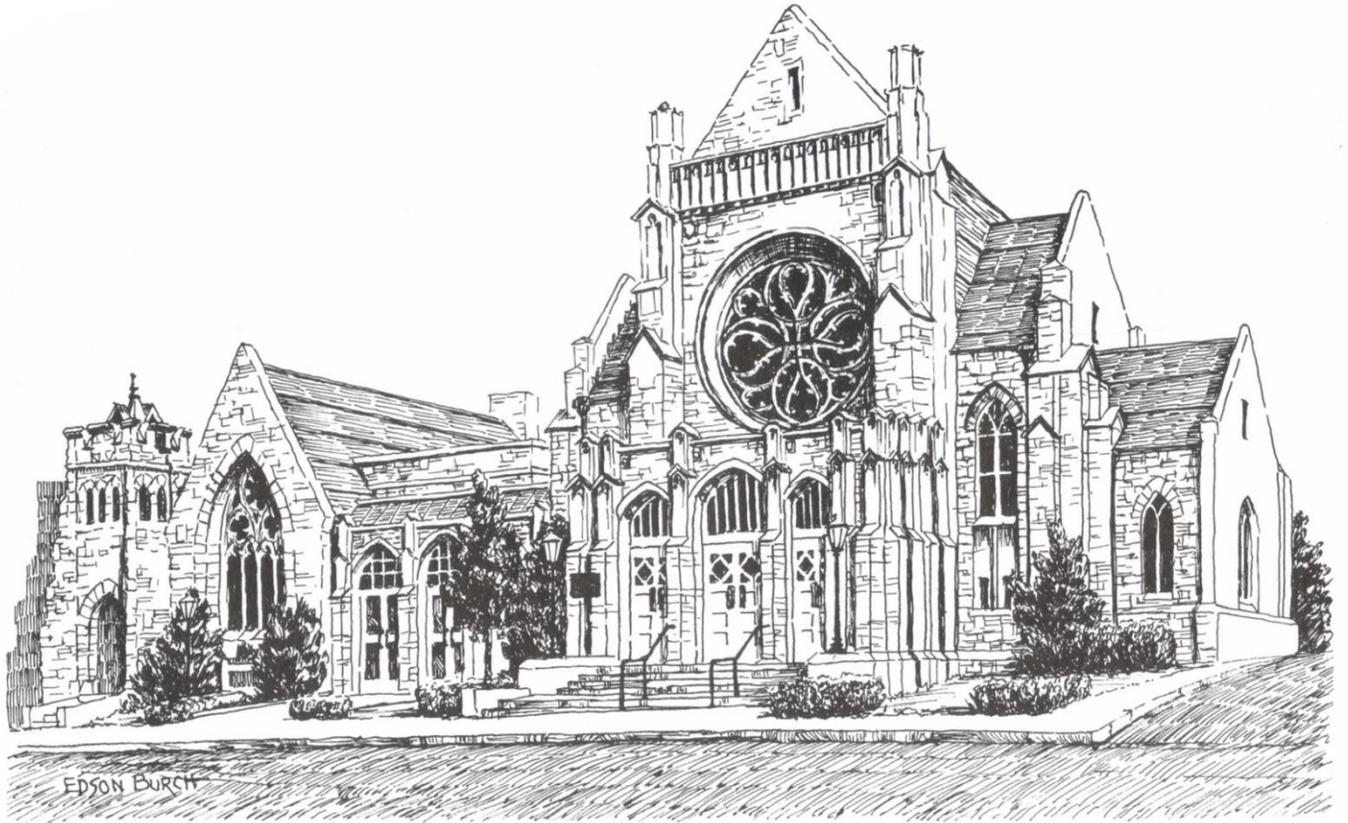


WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 2021

9:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION

**We seek to live Christ's love,
welcome all people, and joyfully serve God.**



Service for the Lord's Day

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

~ Gathering for God's Word ~

PRELUDE

Variations on "Duke Street"
Shawn Portell, organ

Callahan

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Morris

Let us stand . . .

L: The Lord redeems the life of his servants.

P: Thanks be to God!

L: No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

P: Praise the Lord!

✦ OPENING HYMN: #635

"Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord"
(see music at end of bulletin)

LAUDATE DOMINUM

Hymn note: Congregation will be singing both the English and Latin text as demonstrated by the cantor. Please sing at the hand motion of the cantor.

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord. Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.
Lau - da - te Do - mi - num, lau - da - te Do - mi - num,

Peo - ples! Na - tions! Al - le - lu - ia!
om - nes gen - tes, al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1980
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1980
Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

LAUDATE DOMINUM (Taizé)
6.6.8.6.6.8

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Because God is near to the brokenhearted,
let us consider how we have lived,
confessing our sins
and trusting in God’s mercy to save.

✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray . . .

**P: God of our redemption,
we confess that we have not been faithful servants.
We have not served you with sincere hearts
nor trusted in your salvation.
We have forsaken you, the living God,
and have chosen to follow the lifeless idols
of worldly power and wealth.
Forgive us our sin, O God.
Lead us to heartfelt repentance
that we may honor you with our lips
and serve you with our lives;
through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news:

L: Christ himself is the Word that offers eternal life
to all who receive him. This proves Christ’s love for us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE: #62 “Love the Lord Your God”

GREAT COMMANDMENT

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. The first staff has the lyrics "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." and chord symbols E, B, A, E above it. The second staff has the lyrics "Love the Lord your God with all your soul." and chord symbols (C) E, (G) B, (F) A, (C) E above it.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

~ **Proclaiming God's Word** ~

SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION

“Blessing of the Backpacks”

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

L: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. Last year was different from what we expected. We couldn't see our friends or play on playgrounds; we learned at home, in masks six feet apart, or both. In all these changes, we may have felt sad and alone.

God, our friend who comforts us, hold us close and wipe our tears. In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all. Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes. However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new.

For the grown-ups going back to school, With-Us God, be with them too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow. God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dave Morris

Let us pray . . .

L: Lord Jesus Christ,
as we hear the reading of Holy Scripture,
speak to us your words of spirit and life. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Ephesians 6: 10-20

Pew Bible pg. 195

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

SCRIPTURE READING: Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18 Pew Bible pgs. 215-216

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

¹⁴“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” ¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

SERMON

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

HYMN: # 402

“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”
(see music in back of bulletin)

MERLE’S TUNE

~ Responding to God's Word ~

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Harriet Hall

(GATHER JOYS AND CONCERNS)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Sisters and brothers,
as Christ offered himself for the life of the world,
let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
Merciful God, hear our prayer.

God, we pray for the church in every land:
Help all who serve the living God to be strong in the power of God
and to withstand all the temptations of the evil one.
For the church universal,
Merciful God,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: God, we pray for those who lead your church:
Guide the pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, and administrators
who order the life of Christian community,
that they may persevere in supplication for all the saints
and make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. Merciful God,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: God, we pray for those who govern the nations and exercise authority in civic life:
Give our governing officials wisdom for the administration of justice,
compassion for the sake of mercy,
and determination for the pursuit of the common good.
For President Biden, for Governor Parson, for Mayor Welch,
and for the rulers of every nation and city, Merciful God,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: God, we pray for the sick, the poor, and the oppressed:
Save those who are in need
and strengthen all who minister to them.
For those in trouble or want, Merciful God,

P: Hear our prayer.

L: God, we pray for our planet Earth:
Save our world from the ravages of war,
thoughtless waste, and the foolish exploitation of Earth's abundance.
For the good earth, Merciful God,

P: Hear our prayer.

(INSERT JOYS AND CONCERNS)

L: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people
and grant that what we ask in faith
we may receive according to your gracious love,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

L: Let all who revere the Lord,
who desire to serve the Lord in sincerity and in faithfulness,
bring their gifts with joyful hearts.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Serve the Lord With Gladness"
Sean Stewart, Shawn Portell, duet

Dillworth

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dave Morris

L: We give thanks to you, God,
for sending your Son Jesus to be living bread for the world.
Breathe on these gifts we bring,
that through them your life may feed, strengthen, and bless this world,
through Christ, our bread of life. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Friends, let us now be bold to pray as our Savior Christ has taught us:

**P: 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.**

~ Sending ~

CLOSING HYMN: # 846

“Fight the Good Fight”
(see music in back of bulletin)

DUKE STREET

CHARGE

L: Sisters and brothers,
you have chosen to serve God
because God has chosen you in Jesus Christ.
Go, therefore, to love and serve as God’s people in the world.

P: We go in Jesus’ name.

INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF FAITH

POSTLUDE:

Final on “Duke Street”
Shawn Portell, organ

Callahan

As you rest in the postlude, our final offering to God, you are invited to use this time to reflect on how you have met God here today and how you will bring God’s love into the world that awaits.

BLESSING

L: The blessing of God, who delivers us,
the grace of Christ, who sustains us,
and the communion of the Spirit, who empowers us,
be with you always.

Worship Notes

Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by:

- Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012
- Westminster John Knox Press from the PCUSA Book of Common Worship © 2018

Those Who Serve Today

Ushers: Donna Bellows, Vicki Lane, Bill Schwartz, and Allan Scott

Liturgist: Dave Morris

Camera Operators: Tom McNeely, Spencer Roudebush, Dennis Wacker

Chancel Flowers

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in remembrance of loved ones born in August, the gift of John and Amy Castagno.

Online Worship

In order to reach beyond the walls of WGPC and into the homes of those who are unable to worship with us in person, each of our worship services is live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website, wgpc.org, Facebook and YouTube pages. Children's participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Ministry Staff

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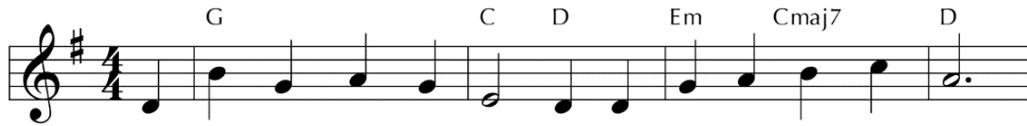
Webster Groves Presbyterian Church
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Webster Groves, MO 63119

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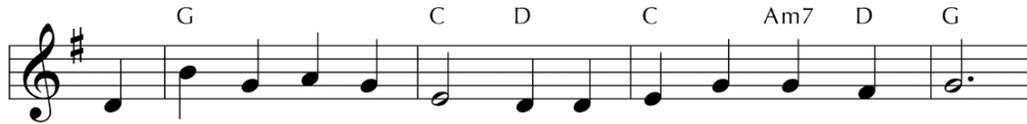
402

How Lovely, Lord

(Psalm 84)



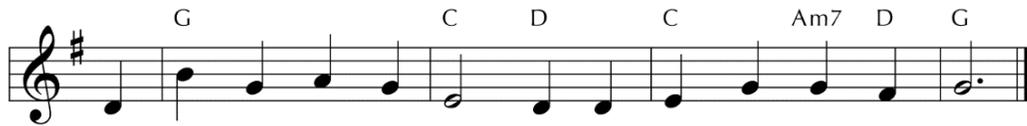
1 How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;
 2 In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
 3 A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O Lord Most High;



my soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.
 is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.
 you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will you de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
 I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord
 The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
 than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
 and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

TEXT: Arlo D. Duba, 1984
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983
 Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company

MERLE'S TUNE
 7.6.7.6.D

Fight the Good Fight

846

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound-less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

TEXT: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. John Hatton, c. 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

August 22, 2021 Announcements

Be a DOV!



What are DOVs? They are Dedicated Office Volunteers! We are looking for members to be a part of our new office/staff support team! It takes a village, and staff would very much appreciate help with answering phones and small tasks, Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We will accommodate any schedule. You can volunteer for as little as once a month, for as much as once a week, or for anything in between. Please call/text Pam Murphy at 314-477-9634. Thank you!

Snacks for Students

Wednesday, September 1st, 9:00 a.m.

Twice a year our congregation delivers healthy snacks schools in the Webster Groves School District through our Snacks for Students program. The goal is to support students who may come to school hungry so they can focus on learning. This program is funded through the Mission budget and has been a welcome gift to staff and students over the years.

This fall we will be delivering snacks on Wednesday, September 1st at 9:00 a.m.



If you are interested in volunteering to deliver items to district schools, please contact Beth Kazlauskas at bok@wgpc.org.

School Supply Success!!!



Thank you to all who contributed to our recent school supply drive! We delivered a carload of supplies to Webster Rock Hill Ministries, including 25 backpacks and an abundance of items to fill them. Whether

you donated supplies or made a financial contribution so we could shop, we are grateful for your support of students in our community!

WGPC Gentle Yoga

**Thursday August 26 and
September 2, 10:00-10:45 a.m.**

Marlene McCarthy, a Yoga Alliance certified yoga teacher and grandmother to Charlie, Nora, and Teddy Ringkamp, will be offering a Gentle Yoga class on Thursday, August 26 and September 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. All are welcome! Marlene says, "I offer yoga classes to quiet your mind, strengthen your body, and renew your spirit. Yoga is a holistic approach to a healthy life – physical, mental, and spiritual. In my class, I will adapt the poses based on your needs. I look forward to our time together."

Month of Grace + Prayer:

An Ecumenical Retreat in Everyday Life Begins Sunday, September 12

Pray on your own 20 minutes each day and meet one-on-one with a spiritual companion one hour each week for four consecutive weeks. Starts September 12. All meetings will be virtual (Zoom or phone if you prefer). Weekly meeting times are set around your schedule. This is an individually directed retreat tailored to your own deep desires. Committed couples also have the option to participate as a couple. The spiritual companions are not members of our church nor can accompany anyone they know. All adults are welcome regardless of denomination or affiliation. For more information, visit www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org. To register, please contact Clarence Heller at clarenceheller@gmail.com.



Part-Time Teacher's Aide Needed

The Webster Groves Presbyterian Church ECC is looking for a part-time teacher's aide in the Little Learners classroom (ages 1-3). Hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon. No experience necessary but must love kids! Interested? Please reach out to Amanda at 917-312-7075 or ecc@wgpc.org.

Masks in Worship

The CDC guidelines have been updated to reflect new data on the Delta variant of the coronavirus. Data suggests the variant is more potent and more contagious than the Alpha variant and now much more common. COVID cases are rising and the positivity rate has increased in our area. Children in our congregation 12 and under as well as some immunocompromised individuals are unable to be vaccinated. For the sake of these in our church family, we are at this time asking all vaccinated and unvaccinated worshippers to please wear a mask during worship and as you move around the church. We ask you to also remain "socially distanced." While the risk remains relatively low for vaccinated individuals, we believe making this sacrifice for others in our church is a faithful action to take to express our love for one another.

Thank you for your kindness, understanding, and patience. Encourage those you know who are not vaccinated to be vaccinated so we can get back to normal!

Thank you.

Pastor Ed