



# Be Present

## September 3, 2023



The congregation of Washington Street UMC praises and serves God from the heart of the city in ways that reach our neighbors near and far. We welcome and affirm all who seek the love and mercy of Christ regardless of race, creed, age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. We honor traditions as rooted in our history, our expression of worship, and our respect for theological curiosity. We nonetheless see vital change and ongoing renewal as essential for spiritual growth.

PROUD MEMBER OF





WASHINGTON STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14th Sunday after Pentecost | September 3, 2023 | Green

*(As our worship begins, please silence any electronic devices.*

*Portable hearing devices are available in the Narthex. Please ask an usher for assistance.)*

### PRELUDE

### THE RINGING OF THE BELL

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP+

One: Followers of Christ, God calls us just as we are to live as truth-tellers and gospel-bringers in the world.

**All: God, we know you call us, and still, we ask, “Who am I that you would call me?”**

One: Like Moses standing before the burning bush convinced of his unworthiness to lead your people out of bondage, we ask,

**All: “Who am I that you would call me?”**

One: Like Peter who thought he got it right only to realize that who Jesus is doesn’t meet his expectations of who a Savior should be, we ask,

**All: “Who am I that you would call me?”**

One: As we raise this question to God today, we open our hearts to receive God’s answer:

**All: You are my beloved children. You are my disciples. You are my people called to share the love of God for the transformation of the world. Amen.**

*(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023.)*

### HYMN #139

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1, 3, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863;  
st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986; st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 (Ps. 103:1-6; 150)  
Music: Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Mystery, we are constantly amazed by the depth and breadth of your love. Over and over again, you turn our expectations inside out and upside down. And still, we don’t understand the radical nature of your grace. We play by our own rules of justice, even when it means excluding those we are called to love and defend. In our darkest moments, we doubt if we are worthy of your trust. God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need; that through the solid foundation of your love, we find the strength to follow your call as true disciples of Jesus Christ. Surprise us again, O God. Surprise us again.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God who brought our ancestors out of slavery will not desert us. God has promised to be with us throughout all generations. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice, for God is with us!

*(<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5329/worship-elements-august-30-2020>)*

### CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

Sarah-Kate Gravely

*(After Children’s Moments, children 5 and under may go with the class leader to the 2-3’s classroom located on the first floor past the elevator on the left. They may be picked up there, or they will be escorted back to the sanctuary prior to the benediction.)*

OFFERTORY

*Give to my eyes, Lord*

RONALD CORP

Soprano Soloist: Emily Schlegel

*(Giving is easy! Place your gift in the offering plate; text the word "CONNECTIONS" to the number 73256; donate through Realm Connect; visit us online at [wsmethodist.org/giving](http://wsmethodist.org/giving); mail a check to WSUMC, 1401 Washington St., Columbia, SC 29201; or scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.)*

\*DOXOLOGY #95

OLD 100th

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

HYMN #415

Take Up Thy Cross

GERMANY

Words: Charles W. Everest, 1833 (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24)  
Music: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Exodus 3:1-6

HOMILY

BE PRESENT

Rev. Alston Lippert

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN # 2272

*Standing on Holy Ground*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed be your holy name....as we join their unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest..**

Lord God,...Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Sending God....Amen

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

\*HYMN #433

*All Who Love and Serve Your City*

CHARLESTOWN

Words: Erik Routley, 1966 (Lk. 19:41; Ezk. 48:35)  
Music: USA melody; harm. and arr. By Carlton R. Young, 1964

\*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

*\*Congregation standing. If standing is uncomfortable, please remain seated and continue your participation.  
When our worship ends, our service begins!*

**Reverend Becky J. Shirley**  
Senior Pastor  
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**Reverend Alston Lippert**  
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**Christine Taylor**  
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**Sarah-Kate Gravely**  
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**Nicholas Todd Shumate**  
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**Felicia Yockel**  
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**Jammie Watters**  
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**Terrence Chisolm**  
Soup Cellar Manager  
tee\_chisolm@yahoo.com

**Louis Shirer**  
Organist  
louis@wsmethodist.org

**Rick Frierson**  
Pianist

**PRAYER THOUGHT**

God is parting waters and making a way for us. God is moving mountains that we don't see. God answers our prayers before we speak. All God needs from us is to be still and know.

**PRAYER LIST**

Betsy Alexander	Betsy Halloren	Martha Helen King	David Middleton
Karen Basso	Rev. Paul Harmon	Lin Fesperman Lord	Shawn Powers
David Byrum	Karen Horne	Beverly McClanahan	Genie & Ron Quinn
Mickey Epting	Lisa Johnson	Paul McClanahan	Nancy Williams
Pat Griffin	Jean Kaness	Sharon McCullough	Our homebound

**SERVING TODAY**

Director of Music	Nicholas Todd Shumate
Organ	Louis Shirer
Piano	Rick Frierson
Acolyte	Lucy Woods
Ushers	Tommy Betenbaugh
Greeters	Cindy Cox, Beth Robinson
Children's Moments	Sarah-Kate Gravely
Sound/Video/Projection	Spencer Stevens, Lynn Shirley
Visitor Cards	Suzanne Joye
Pew Maintenance	Jammie Watters
Children's Church	McKenzie Powers, Sarah-Kate Gravely
Nursery	McKenzie Powers, Olivia Rowland
Online Moderator	Ed McClain

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

As of 8-27-23

**Church Budget: \$866,231**

Church Actual	\$428,457
Soup Cellar	\$45,100
Foundation	\$14,570

**SCAN TO GIVE**



**Attendance on 8/27/23: 173 (in-person); 116 (online as of 8/30/23); TOTAL = 289**