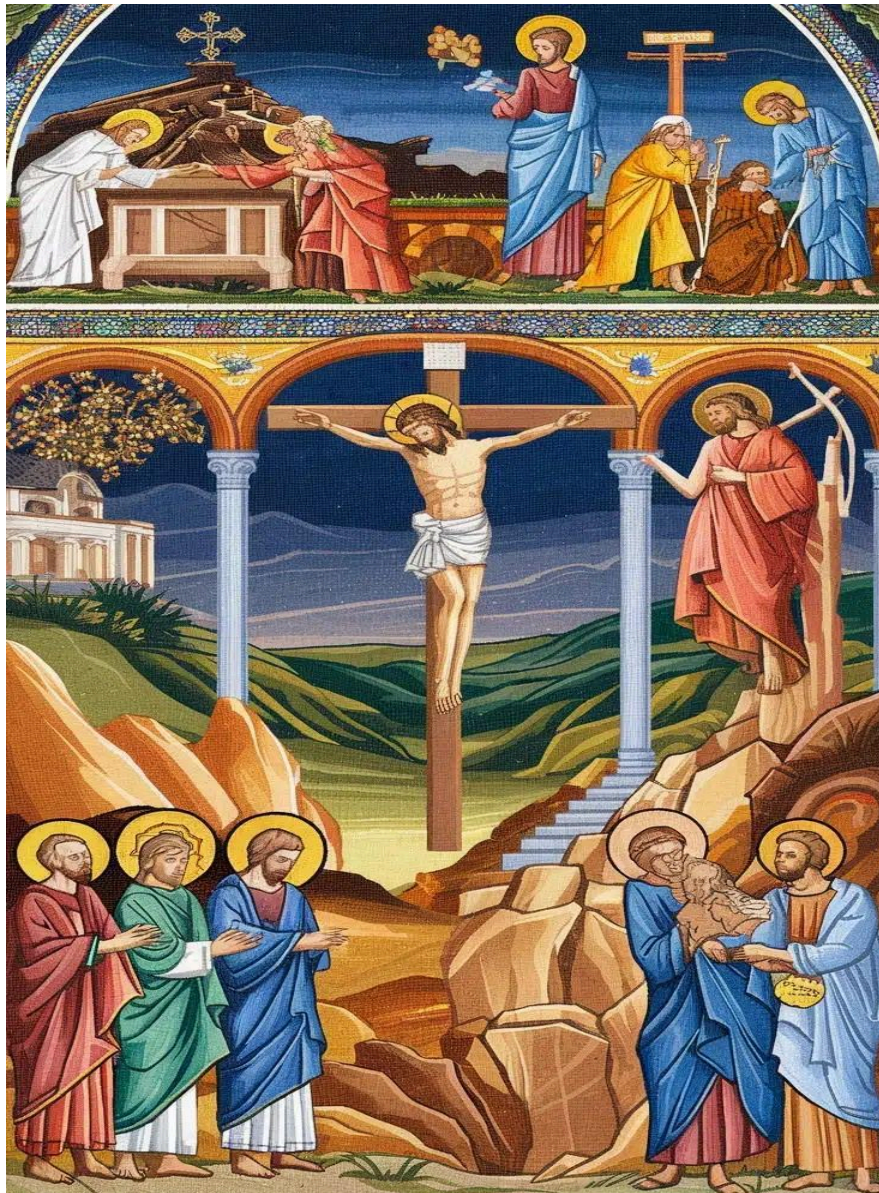


# White Memorial Presbyterian Church



1459 White Memorial Church Road  
Willow Spring, NC 27592  
[www.wmpcwillowsspring.org](http://www.wmpcwillowsspring.org)  
Remembering God's Grace,

the mission of White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Willow Spring is:

*Come to be joyous and thoughtful in worship;  
Walk with God's guidance into deeper faith and knowledge;  
Stretch out to the needy with tangible acts of service;  
Be loving and generous with time, talents and treasures;  
Go out into the world to welcome and invite.*

## Service for the Resurrection of the Lord

April 20, 2025

10:30 AM

### The Church Gathers

#### Prelude -

#### Prayer for Preparation:

Blessed are we who stretch out our hands to you in doubt and grief, in sickness of body and mind and spirit, our prayers not fully realized, rejoicing . . . anyway. For that is what makes us Easter people: carrying forth the realized hope of the Resurrected One singing our alleluias great and small, while it is still dark. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. – “Blessing for Easter Sunday” by Kate Bowler

#### Welcome and Announcements

Nancy Warren

#### \*Call to Worship

One: The LORD is risen!

**All: The LORD is risen, indeed!**

One: Death has been swallowed up in victory.

**All: Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?**

One: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: We will worship the Risen Lord, who gives us new life.**

#### \*Opening Hymn

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

Hymnal Page 232

Prayer of Adoration

### Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

**All: In our foolishness, we think this old story has nothing to do with us. We miss the incredible news that love has triumphed over hate, goodness has defeated evil, that life has broken the power of death and the grave. Risen God, remind us anew of the joy and wonder of this day. Help us push aside our indifference so we may be reminded that this old story is new every moment, that those ancient promises still hold true, and that we are the ones called by Jesus, in love and for love. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

One: Hear the good news! Christ defeated sin and death once and for all. In Christ, we receive forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life.

**All: This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. Alleluia! The Lord is risen, indeed!**

### We Proclaim God's Word

A Time with Young Disciples

#### Prayer for Illumination

**All: Gracious God, Living Word, as you revealed yourself to Mary that Easter morning, so reveal yourself to us. By the power of your Spirit, give each of us faith, that hearing your Word we, too, may proclaim, “I have seen the Lord!” Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

Nancy Warren, CRE

Sermon

*Hope Begins in the Dark*

Rev. Molly Smerko

### **We Respond to God's Word**

\*Affirmation of Faith (From "A Brief Statement of Faith," *Book of Common Worship*).

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

\*Hymn of Response

*Thine Is the Glory*

Hymnal Page 238

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People**

### **Reception of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

\* Doxology

### **Prayer of Dedication**

### **We Gather at Our Lord's Table**

### **Invitation to the Table**

### **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Communion

Prayer after Communion

**All: We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament, we are reminded of our dying and rising with you. Send us from this place to tell the story of your resurrection with the words of our mouths and the deeds of our lives. We rejoice this day and on all days as we proclaim the gift of your resurrection. Alleluia, amen, alleluia.**

### **Going Out in God's Name**

\*Hymn of Commitment

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Hymnal Page 248

\*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

**Notes:** Portions of today's liturgy were adapted from Thom M. Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies* and *Call to Worship*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Office of Theology & Worship.

Speaker: Rev. Molly Smerko

Musician: Anne Honeycutt

Liturgist: Nancy Warren, CRE

Greeters/Ushers:                   **April** – Lee and Glenda                                           **May** – Sandy and Mary R.  
Offering Counters:               **April** – Margaret and Sharen                                           **May** – Becky and Joan

Please see the schedule below for upcoming services

**April 27**           Rev. Carole McCartney

**Prayer concerns may be submitted by turning in a prayer request.**

Sarah Blankenkoper (Molly's sister), Kim Boyer - cancer (Sharen); Nancy's friend Janine Brown, Judy Brown, Jane Smith's relative in Ohio, Russell Byrd, (Joyce), Ruth Dupree, Gillis family (Jenn), Lois Gillis (Jenn), Michelle and Henry Jones, Ken Meeks, Sandy Parrish, Curtis Phillips (Teresa Smith), Krista Jackson.

Yolanda Martinez, (Trish's sister), Camry O'dell (Nancy), Damien Perez, (friend of Nancy and Charlene), Delores Shreve (Jerry), Linda Reid, Clennis Stephenson and Max Stephenson (Linda), Geraldine Stephenson (Ann and Linda), Linda Strickland, Prayers for Jim and Trish Shannon, Sharon Tart, (Charlene's cousin) David Smith (Don Smith), Chris Wheeler.

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## Happening in the Life of Our Church

**Sunday Worship – April 20<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 AM. Be sure to join us for our weekly worship service in person or on Facebook Live.

Our next **NourishWorship** is scheduled for **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we seek to feed the body and nourish the spirit. All are welcome at the table!

**White Memorial Church Road Cleanup, Saturday April 26th at 8:30 AM** - meet at the fellowship hall. Volunteers are encouraged to again help with this long-running commitment by WMPC. Thanks and see Don Smith for information!

**Next Senior Lunch** is scheduled for **May 8<sup>th</sup>** at Pleasant Grove. Please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to Restoration's Food Pantry. Please let Margaret King know if you plan to attend. Her contact number is 919-818-2134.

**Please consider joining the Roundtable Sunday morning group for a new study** - "Tending the Wild Garden - Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit". The small group meets by Zoom for about an hour on Sunday starting at 8:45AM. See Nancy Warren for information on joining this study.

**BackPack Buddies** – The Presbyterian Women continue to collect food for the Back Pack Buddies program. Thank you for your generous contributions.

**Food Ministry and Outreach** –Donated food will be delivered to Restoration Church pantry. As always, you can drop off any non-perishable food contributions in the bins located outside of the Fellowship Hall or in the Church Library. Thank you to all who continue to bring food.

**Mini-Pantry Needs** – We need items for the mini-pantry (blessing box) such as ravioli, beans and franks, Vienna sausage, packaged fruit, boxed or packaged cereal, canned goods with a pop top, baby wipes, diapers, etc. Please leave your items in the designated bin in the Church Library.

**Special Offerings:** First Sunday – Community Crisis                                           Last Sunday – Pennies for Hunger  
PCUSA Lenten Offering "**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**" April 6th - 20th; use designated pew envelopes. Proceeds go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support hunger programs, self-development of people, and disaster assistance.

**Suicide Hotline is 988 - If you need to talk, the 988 Lifeline is here.**

At the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, we understand that life's challenges can sometimes be difficult. Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our caring counselors are here for you.

