

Traditional Worship Service

Sunday, September 13, 2026 • 9:40 a.m.

Welcome!

Rev. Lee Foster

Invocation

Quietly Preparing to Worship God

Everyone

Please take a moment to silence your cell phones

Job wanted answers, and since he shook his fist at God from the ash heap we still want to know. "The tents of the robbers are in peace," Job says to God, while he, a righteous man suffers great calamity. "Why do the wicked prosper" the Psalmist asks in Psalm 73. Jeremiah boldly asks God "why do the treacherous thrive?" We have some serious questions. "Who sinned, that this man was born blind?" And surely, those who were crushed by the tower collapsing referred to in Luke 13 must be greater sinners than the rest. We have serious questions about suffering, pain, and evil in the world. Elie Wiesel, in the Nazi concentration camp voiced it for us: where is God? Why do the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper? We want answers. We always have. But answers are few and far between. Someone suggested that Jesus was asked over 180 questions in the gospels. He answers 3 directly.

We want answers, but answers are what we rarely get. God doesn't often come to us in answers, as Job discovered. What we get from God, not occasionally, not sometimes, but all the time, is His presence. "I will be with you." Even though you walk through a dark valley, I will be there. God is present with us in scripture, reading and hearing the living Word. God is present when we break bread together. God is present in worship. In fact, even when it is just two or three gathered, God is there. We want answers, but really what we need, is His presence. And that is what we have. In worship, in silence, in song. God is present. Thanks be to God.

Prelude

FOREST GREEN

arr. Ellson

Responsive Reading

Lisa Lynch and Everyone

*Congregation reads the **bold** print*

Come, let us gather under the sheltering arm of God's grace.
For the Lord's love is vast, stretching across the whole earth.

Our God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good.

God sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous alike.

We do not gather because we are perfect, but because we are loved.

We come to learn the ways of our generous, boundary-breaking God.

Let us worship the One who commands us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

May our hearts expand to reflect the perfect, impartial love of God. Let us worship together!

Hymn 303

Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET

Reading from Psalm 103:7-12

Bill Bynum

Reading from Matthew 18:10-14

Shirley Rudin

Hymn 599

Soon and Very Soon

SOON AND VERY SOON

Offertory Prayer

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Everyone

Choral Anthem

Like a River in My Soul

Tim Osiek

Pastoral Scripture **1 Cor. 15:22-26** Rev. Foster
Pastor: The Word of God, for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Message **Good Question:** Rev. Foster
Why is there Suffering?

Hymn 104 **Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound**
NEW BRITAIN

Closing Words

Benediction

Postlude **Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God** Armsdorf

HOW TO JOIN: During the Response Hymn, you are invited to join our congregation. You may become a member by one of the following methods.

1. You may share with the congregation that you have committed your life to Jesus and desire to be baptized.
2. You have already made a commitment to Jesus, been baptized and now desire to transfer your membership from another church to Winfree, or join based on your statement of faith in Christ.

**NEW AT
WINFREE?
SCAN HERE!**



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Rev. Jimmy Doan • Youth Minister
Rev. Josh Roberts • Young Adult Minister
Mrs. Lisa Lynch • Minister to Children & Families
Dr. Jimmie Miles • Minister of Congregational Care
Mr. Matthew Knesal • Contemporary Worship Director
Mrs. Beverley Edwards • Traditional Worship Director
Mrs. Dana Long • Office Manager
Mrs. Lindy Moore • Finance Administrator
Mrs. Michele Bynum • Organist



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