



# Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**August 29, 2021**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome**, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.



**Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Matthew 25 Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

**1502 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)**

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter through the homepage of our website ([www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)), liking us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware](https://www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware)), or following us on Instagram ([www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware](https://www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware)).

## Today at Westminster

- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.**      **Food Collection** for Emmanuel Dining Room in the Westminster parking lot.
- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.**      **Worship** in the Sanctuary. See guidelines on page 6.
- 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.**      **Prayground** in Community Hall. Worship is live streamed and activities are provided for children. Masking (for those over the age of 2) and social distancing are required. See guidelines on page 6.

*Please see page 7 for information on Educational Offerings for Adults.*

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### **Worship Notes -- This morning we welcome:**

**The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan** is the Missional Presbyterian of New Castle Presbytery. After having pastored four churches in both Pittsburgh, PA and Columbus, OH, she came to New Castle Presbytery because she was inspired by our emphasis on helping churches live courageously into their calling. As the primary staff person for the Ignite team and presbytery mission partnerships, she believes that the purpose of church is to equip people for loving the world well. She cherishes friendships among a wide variety of people from various traditions, conditions, religions, and opinions. Tracy and her husband, the Rev. Jim Mehler, have two grown daughters. She plays the piano, writes music and stories, rides a Harley, and looks for the joy.

**Guest organist Rudolph Lucente.** Rudy has been a church musician for more than forty years and is both an assistant organist at the Grand Court Organ (formerly Wanamaker's) in Philadelphia and a holiday staff organist at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square.

**Our soloist, Sharon Babcock,** recently completed her tenure as alto section leader in the Westminster Choir. The Iowa native enjoyed a distinguished career as soloist and choral conductor and served as interim choir director during Westminster's search for a new director of music.

**Westminster has been certified as an Earth Care Congregation** by the Presbyterian Church (USA) for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. This honor means we exhibit exceptional leadership in protecting God's creation and are good stewards of earth's resources through our worship, education, outreach and advocacy. Only 2% of the 10,000 Presbyterian congregations in the U.S. have earned this honored distinction.

**Westminster is a Matthew 25 Congregation** that strives to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle structural racism, and build congregational vitality. The gospel calls us to actively engage in the world so that our faith comes alive.

**Westminster is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians** whose mission is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace, by working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a more just and inclusive church.

**The flowers in the sanctuary today** are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Lena Smith and Thomas Ferry. Thomas is the son of Diane and Tom Ferry.

**Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship** to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or [lwatson@ycst.com](mailto:lwatson@ycst.com). Available dates are September 19, October 31, November 28, December 12 and 19.

**Westminster's Prayer Team** prays for the needs of our community of faith. You may submit a prayer request by email: [wpcprayerlist@gmail.com](mailto:wpcprayerlist@gmail.com).

**You can make a contribution** to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website [www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org) and click the "Donate Now" button or scan the QR code on your smart phone.



# ORDER OF WORSHIP- SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

TOWER CHIME

Sue Spilecki

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Rudolph Lucente

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

**We long for abiding peace  
and friendship that renews our souls.**

Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

**We seek wisdom that endures  
and guidance for our journey.**

Jesus says, "Where I am, there you may be also."

**We come to encounter Christ.  
Let us worship our God!**

HYMN NO. 311

*Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;  
looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.  
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:  
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.

Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease;  
where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?  
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:  
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.

Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands;  
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.  
While in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:  
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.

Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;  
help us as we work and pray; send us from above  
Truth and courage, faith and power needed in our strife:  
Jesus, Savior, be our Way; be our Truth, our Life

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Jesus, you are the Way.  
Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.  
But we disobey your commandments and veer off-course,  
choosing ways that lead to status or success  
rather than following right paths for your name's sake.**

**Jesus, you are the Truth  
Your word illumines our minds; your grace sets us free.  
But we disregard your teachings and seek out other voices —  
voices that promise an easier way  
rather than reminding us what love demands.**

**Jesus, you are the Life.  
Your word beckons us into the joy of communion with you  
But we dismiss your voice and turn away —  
hearing your call to discipleship as an obligation,  
rather than an invitation to abundant life.**

**Forgive us, we pray.  
Help us to hear your word  
and to follow you faithfully  
that we might truly be disciples  
of the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

[Click here](#) to watch today's TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN on Westminster's YouTube channel.

ANTHEM

*In My Father's House Are Many Mansions*

James MacDermid

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:  
Not as the world giveth, give I unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.  
In my Father's house are many mansions:  
If it were not so I would have told you,  
I go to prepare a place for you,  
I will come again and receive you unto myself;  
That where I am ye may be also;  
And whither I go ye know and the way ye know.  
Sharon Babcock, mezzo soprano

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 14:1-14

SERMON

Tracy Keenan

HYMN NO. 819

*Be Still, My Soul* (Vs. 1-2)

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide,  
Who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sudie Niesen Thompson

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.**

Why should I feel discouraged?  
Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely  
and long for heaven and home,  
when Jesus is my portion?

My constant friend is he:  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,  
(I'm happy)  
I sing because I'm free, (I'm free)  
for his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled,"  
his tender word I hear,  
and resting on his goodness,  
I lose my doubts and fears;  
though by the path he leadeth

But one step I may see:  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me;  
his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,  
(I'm happy)  
I sing because I'm free, (I'm free)  
for his eye is on the sparrow,  
and I know he watches me.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

*With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our energy, our hands, and part of our income in service to God. One way we respond to Christ's call is by giving our financial gifts to further God's mission in the world. You may mail a check to the church or make an online offering to support the many ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking "Donate Now" on the homepage of our website ([www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)).*

The resources for children attached at the end of the online bulletin are provided by Illustrated Ministry. Please print them to participate in this service or for family devotions throughout the week.

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*Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*, Tokuo Yamaguchi.

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### **“I AM” Sermon Series:**

If four artists were to paint the same model, they would create four unique portraits. Their works would differ based on perspective, personal style, or the same way, the four Gospel writers create four unique portraits of Jesus the Messiah. One way John paints his portrait is through metaphor — comparing Christ to images that would be familiar to the Gospel’s original audience: bread, light, shepherd, vine. Throughout the Gospel, Jesus likens himself to various objects and concepts through statements that always begin the same way: “I am ...” During Dr. Jones’ sabbatical, the Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson — along with the Rev. Jill Getty and the Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan — will explore the seven “I AM” statements of John’s Gospel and the ways they contribute to a unique portrait of the Messiah who dwells among us.

July 25 —	I am the Bread of Life
August 1 —	I am the Light of the World
August 8 —	I am the Gate for the Sheep
August 15 —	I am the Good Shepherd (Jill Getty)
August 22 —	I am the Resurrection and the Life
August 29 —	I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Tracy Keenan, New Castle Presbytery Missional Presbyter)
September 5 —	I am the True Vine



## **HOMEcoming CELEBRATION**

**Sunday, September 12  
10 AM on the Church Lawn**

*Welcome home! We’ve been waiting for you!*

The Membership & Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a “Homecoming Celebration” on the church lawn on September 12 at 10 AM (rain date is September 19). Join us to engage with members in person and learn about all the wonderful things going on at Westminster for adults and children alike, and how you can get involved in the Westminster community! Whether you’ve been here 5 minutes or 50 years, we have a place for you!

# Sunday Worship COVID Policy

*Given the level of transmission in New Castle County, we are strongly encouraging everyone – including those who are fully-vaccinated – to wear masks at all times while in the building, in accordance with current CDC guidance.*

- If you are fully vaccinated and comfortable going without a mask please sit in the front part of the sanctuary and the side transepts. These sections are open seating and mask optional for fully vaccinated people. Please access these sections via the lectern-side transept door off the main hallway.
- If you are not vaccinated or choose to wear a mask, you will be able to social distance in the back part of the sanctuary and balcony. Masks must be worn at all times in these sections. Please access these sections through the Narthex (behind the screen at the rear of the sanctuary).
- Ushers at both entrances will be masked and available to direct you to the proper section.
- *Everyone* is required to wear a mask when entering or exiting the building. This is for the well-being of those who are not vaccinated.
- If you have children too young to be vaccinated, you are welcome to worship in the sanctuary, but we have also created a safe, kid-friendly space. We are calling it the **Prayground**. This worship space is in Community Hall. We livestream our worship service into Community Hall and provide materials to help young children engage in worship. Masking (for those over age 2) and social distancing is required.

## EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

*You can find virtual Christian education and small group opportunities on the homepage of the Westminster website ([www.wpc.org](http://www.wpc.org)) and check out other Education Offerings for Adults on [YouTube](#).*

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### Online Bible Studies

#### Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Our Bible Study, facilitated by Randy Williamson and Mary Anne Peters, continues and new faces are always welcome. If interested, contact Randy Williamson at [randywilliamson1@comcast.net](mailto:randywilliamson1@comcast.net) and you will be sent the Zoom link to access the meeting. Starting September 2, this class will be held on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m.

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### Women's Online Community Group

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings are September 9 and 23.**

Coordinator: Jill Getty

The women of Westminster connect for heartfelt and enriching discussions on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 5:00 – 6:00 PM. The Rev. Jill Getty facilitates this group on Zoom. If interested, please email Jill ([jgetty@wpc.org](mailto:jgetty@wpc.org)) and she will add you to the weekly participant email list to receive the Zoom link and password.

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff (on sabbatical)  
Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor  
Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

#### **MUSIC STAFF**

Director of Music/Organist: Dr. F. Anthony Thurman  
Director of Music for Children and Youth: Alexis Droke

#### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES STAFF**

Director of Preschool Ministries: Teisha Fooks  
Nursery: Beatrice Taylor, Kristen Wolanski

#### **YOUTH LEADERS**

Tommy Neilson: Interim 180 Leader  
Josh Cox, Emily Knepper, Molly McPheeters

#### **SUPPORT STAFF**

Susan Alexander, Reception Area Supervisor  
Mary Clark, Office Assistant for Data and Archives  
Paul Crothamel, Director of Facilities and Security  
Colleen Falasco, Director of Financial Operations  
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Jerry Hunter, Manager of Accounting and Reporting  
Suzie Hurlock, Administrative Assistant  
Cathy Lang, Administrative Assistant  
Sextons: Robert King, Daniel Steele, Joan Truitt, John Young

#### **SESSION**

Michelle Butler, Sally Buttner, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Michael Enderle, Jessica Fischer,  
Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, Faith Kuehn, David Máthé, Kelly McCulloch, Susan McPheeters,  
KC Morrison, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleeger, Todd Piercy, Roger Reinicker, Carrie Saathoff,  
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Barbara Stratton, Gill Timon, Mary Vane, Susan Williamson

#### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

Amy Bickhart, Jennifer Blackford, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick, Ron Carrick, Beatty Chadwick,  
Diane Chandler, Eadie Churchill, Joe Daley, Tammy Daley, Kate Dietz, Nancy Fleming, Kendra Gallagher,  
Lili Gerstenschlager, Jamie Hickey, Paul Kelly, Mary Laskaris, Tara Lee, Arun Loptes, Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins,  
Marsha Mah, Dan McAllister, Blair McConnel, Debbie McCullough, Robert Moore, Roland Pamm, Lynne Perkins,  
Emily Pfaff, Sandie Reinicker, Patti Ridout, Robin Rosser, Lisa Stoddard, Lois Underhill,  
Sue Weissinger, Sandra Wermus, Pam White, Pam Wilson

#### **TRUSTEES**

Rich Albert, Charles Babcock, Mark Gerstenschlager, Fred Iobst, Brock Jobe,  
Sue Linderman, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Bob Ridout, Stan Stevenson, Bruce Weber, Dan Weintraub

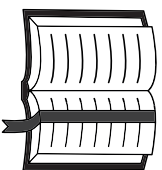
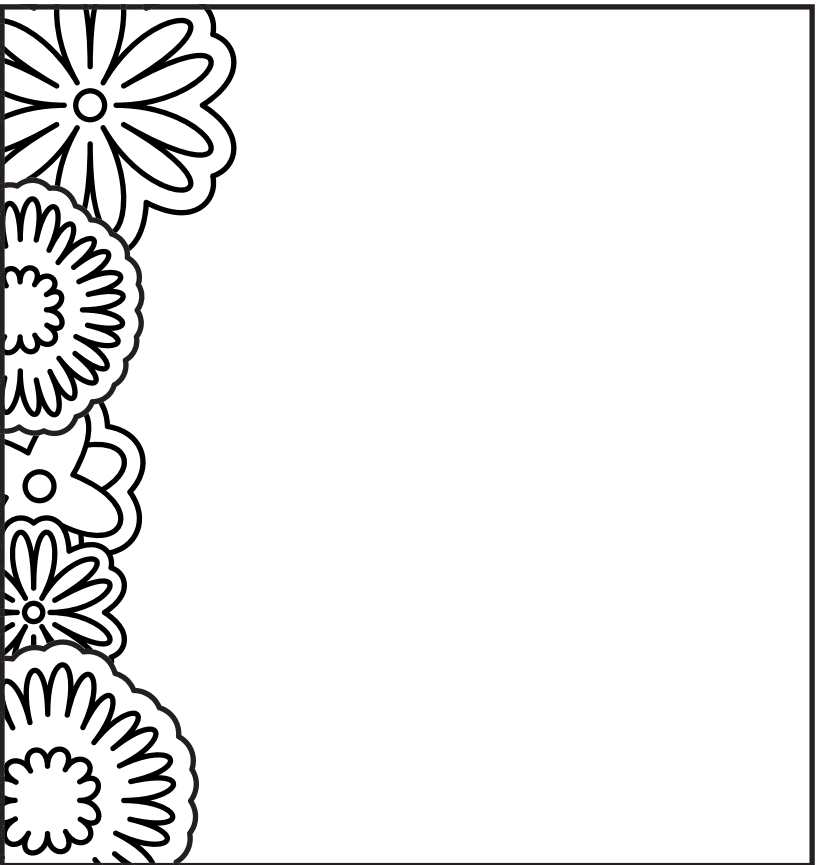
#### **PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY**

DR Congo – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Sthreshley;  
Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish  
Iraq, Syria and Lebanon – PCUSA Mission Co-workers: the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker  
Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches, Ibillin and Haifa, Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band  
Guatemala – CEDEPCA, AJPU, Rosario Diaz and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development



# FINISH <sup>the</sup> DRAWING

Song of Solomon 2 describes the joy of love and new life! It talks about flowers blooming, birds singing, and the love of connection between people. Finish the drawing of this scene and add things that remind you of love and new life.



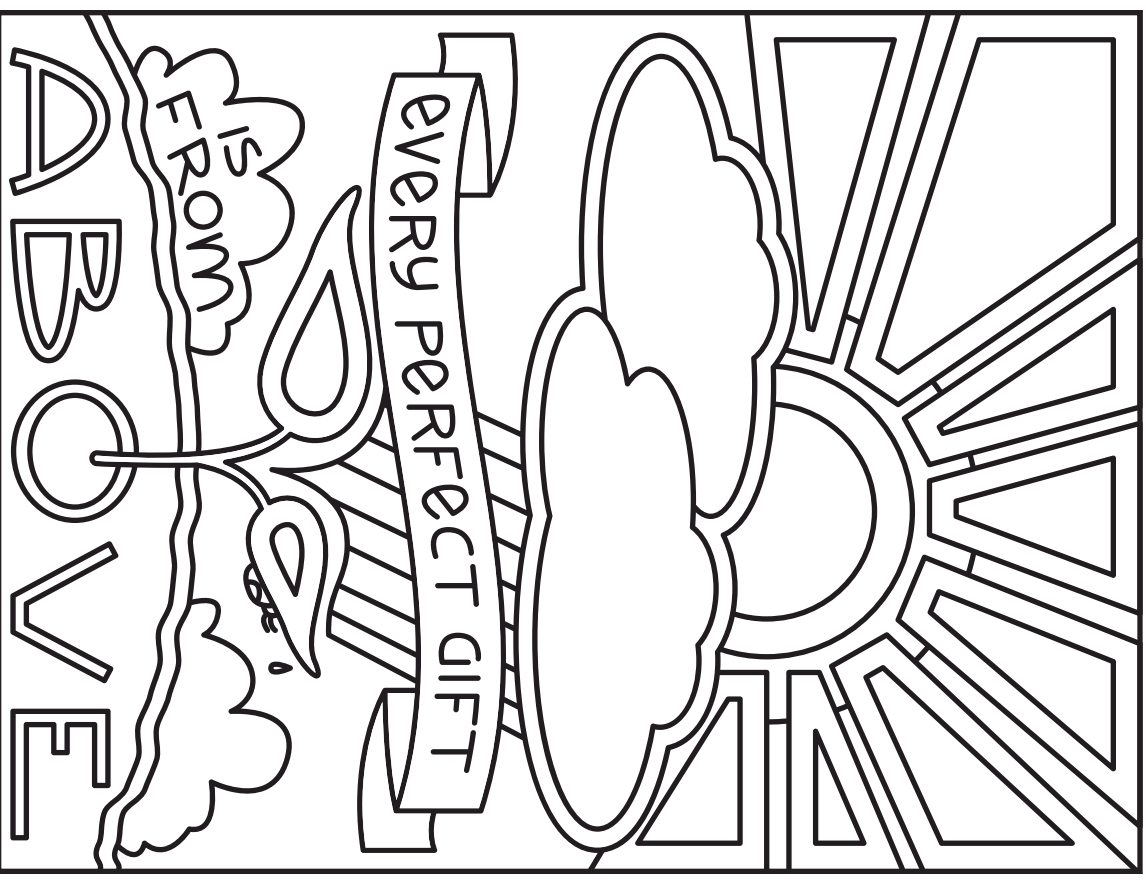
Illustrated  
— MINISTRY —

Suggested for use on August 29, 2021 based on the RCL.

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# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 145:1-2, 6-9, James 1:17-27.





# DRAW IT

James 1 says we must not just talk about how God wants us to live, we need to act! You might show kindness to someone who was unkind to you, instead of only saying, "love your enemies." You might help your baby brother instead of just saying, "love your neighbor." Draw a picture of you following what God says through your actions.

# WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 45 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

N F P P E V B K O W S R G I D  
C W G G N E Q L G L Q I S O S  
S Y Q N O U Q D E Y L G W T E  
C R A I R G L U S S T H Z E A  
R O E K H N Y N E P S T K N Q  
I J C E T O D O G E N E E D A  
B F A K M T R J F E E N O D N I  
E M L U L E S D M N H U Y y R  
J F A L T G H U H A E S F O R  
B A P y R L R T L X A N B U W  
N A R A W T I E F O R E V E R  
M Q C O S K W C V I T S X V I  
W E S N H O M S K O G S T W C  
N G I W U N P N L O L R N Z G  
G L A D N E S S M F E I R R C

HEART	FOREVER	ROBE
THEME	THRONE	INSTRUMENT
KING	GOD	PEN
TONGUE	LOVE	SCRIBE
GRACE	RIGHTEOUSNESS	PALACE
BLESSED	GLADNESS	QUEEN