

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 27, 2025



On the cover

Hosea Takes Gomer to Be His Wife, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Original source: image donated by Jim Womack and Anne Richardson.

About the Prelude

The Prelude is a musical offering to help move the hearts and minds of the gathering community from the daily struggles of life to the worship of God.

Worship on the Lord's Day

Worship begins as the people gather - greeting one another, praying in silence, or offering music to the glory of God. The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world.

Q: What is Prayer?

A: Prayer means calling upon God whose Spirit is always present with us. In prayer, we approach God with reverence, confidence and humility. Prayer involves both addressing God in praise, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, and listening for God's word within our hearts. When we adore God, we are filled with wonder, love and praise before God's heavenly glory, not least when we find it hidden in the cross of Golgotha. When confessing our guilt to God, we ask for forgiveness with humble and sorry hearts, remembering that God is gracious as well as holy. When giving thanks to God, we acknowledge God's great goodness, rejoicing in God for all that is so wonderfully provided for us. Finally, when calling upon God to hear our requests, we affirm that God draws near in every need and sorrow of life, and ask God to do so again.

from the PC(USA) *Study of Catechisms*
Question 120

GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

PRELUDE

J. S. Bach

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 531

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God!

(Those who are able may stand.)

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;
and God's courts with praise;
Give thanks and bless God's holy name!

**For the Lord is good; God's love is eternal,
and God's faithfulness has no end.**

Psalms 100:4-5

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the Word of his kingdom.
Renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(The Cross and Bible lead the procession, symbolic of the
centrality in worship of Jesus Christ - the Living Word,
and the Bible - the written Word.)*

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 643**

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Now Thank We All Our God

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

In humility and faith let us confess our sin
before God and one another.

About Hymn 643

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

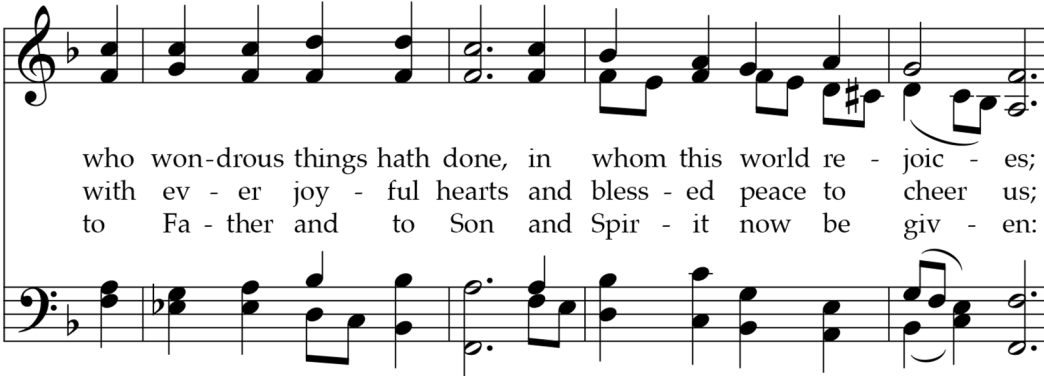
Call to and Prayer of Confession

A call to confession expresses God's initiative in calling for repentance and promising forgiveness in Christ. As members of Christ's body, we confess the reality of sin, captivity, and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace.

643 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high - est heav - en,



who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 to Fa - ther and to Son and Spir - it now be giv - en:



who, from our moth-ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom heaven and earth a - dore,



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be ev - er - more.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
In your great compassion,
cleanse us from our sin.
Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Do not cast us from your presence,
or take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

(Silent confession)

About the Kyrie

The Kyrie (Greek "kyrios" [Lord]) is a corporate musical prayer for grace.

Kyrie

Hal H. Hopson

(Sung responsively by the choir and congregation)

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Assurance of Pardon

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. The liturgist pours water into the font, which reminds us of the grace and cleansing of our Baptism, and the baptismal call to new life in Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the Good News: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

***The Peace**

Since God in Christ has forgiven us,
let us also forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*(Please exchange the peace with the words,
"The peace of Christ be with you.")*

*ACT OF PRAISE

O'Carroll/Walker

Celtic Alleluia

(The congregation sings the Refrain with the choir.)

Refrain



The Word of the Lord lasts forever.

What is the Word that is living?

It is Jesus Christ, who is risen from the dead. **Refrain**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

*(Everyone is asked to sign the Friendship pad,
which is located on the center aisle end of each pew.)*

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Luke 11:1-13

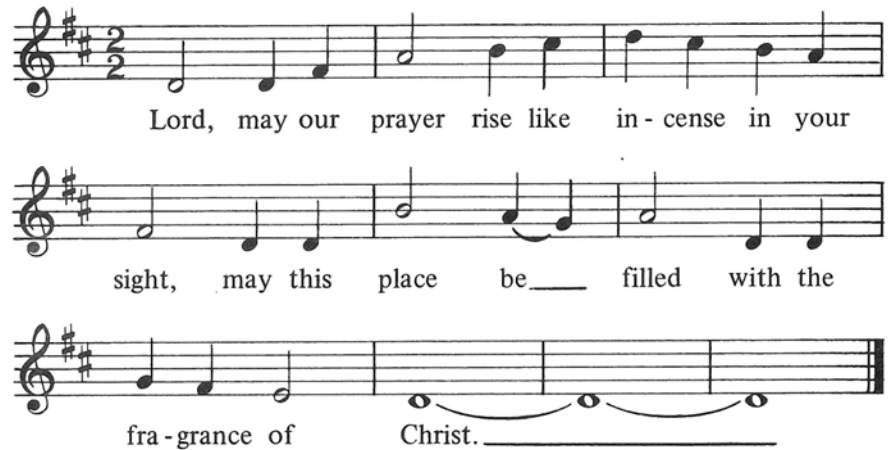
(New Testament, page 72 in your pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Act of Praise

The Act of Praise brings together the choir and congregation to sing God's praise in response to the Assurance of Pardon as the last phrase.

Children's Time will happen at both services when we do not have communion or baptisms.

Refrain

I will thank you, Lord, with all of my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels, I will bless you;
I will adore before your holy temple. **Refrain.**

I will thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness and love,
beyond all my hopes and dreams.
On the day that I called, you answered;
you gave life to the strength of my soul. **Refrain.**

All who live on earth shall give you thanks
when they hear the words of your voice.
And all shall sing of your ways:
"How great is the glory of God!" **Refrain.**

Hosea 1:2-10

(Old Testament, page 835 in your pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Mercy!"

Guy D. Griffith

"But down the road the population of Israel is going to explode past counting, like sand on the ocean beaches. In the very place where they were once named Nobody, they will be named God's Somebody" (Hosea 1:10, The Message). "[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples' (Luke 11:1, NRSV).

(A moment for meditation)

***HYMN 175**

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

175

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2–3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;
 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music – Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music
 (admin. Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY
 Irregular

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 *Busca primero el reino de Dios
 y su perfecta justicia,
 que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.
 Alelu, aleluya.*

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
 그의를 구하-면
 이모든것 네게 더하시리라
 알렐-루 알렐루야

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Q: What is the purpose of prayer?

A. Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense how wonderful God is in grace, purity, majesty and love. Prayer means offering our lives completely to God, submitting ourselves to God's will, and waiting faithfully for God's grace. Through prayer God frees us from anxiety, equips us for service, and deepens our faith.

Q: What encourages us to pray each day?

A. The God who has adopted us as children is the God who encourages and commands us to pray. When we pray, we respond with love to that greater love which meets us from above. Before we enter into prayer, God is ready to grant all that we need. We may turn to God with confidence each day, not because we are worthy, but simply because of God's grace. By praying we acknowledge that we depend on grace for all that is good, beautiful, life-giving and true.

from the PC(USA) *Study of Catechisms*
Question 121 and 123

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Anthem

Giulio Caccini
arr. Helen Litz & Annette Hay

Dona Nobis Pacem

Grant us thy peace.

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

About Hymn 175

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

Offering

The collection of tithes and offerings takes place as a response to the Word. These actions are signs of our gratitude for the grace of God proclaimed in the gospel.

To give, please scan the QR code below:



Doxology

A short hymn of praise to the triune God (God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit).

***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of compassion, we praise you that you look upon our frail lives with love and understanding, and that you desire for us all new life in Jesus Christ. We are overwhelmed by your love, which goes to the cross for us, endures the grave, and leads us to new life. By your Spirit, strengthen our souls to be brave and bold in Christ's service. Take our offerings, and use them and us for your purposes, in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. 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 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

***HYMN 275**

EIN' FESTE BURG

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Setting by Charles W. Ore

A Mighty Fortress (Ein' Feste Burg)

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

About Hymn 275

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

About the Postlude

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of worship.

275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

JESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is a vocal melody in treble clef, featuring a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with some rests, and a final cadence. The lower staff is a basso continuo line in bass clef, providing harmonic support with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written between the two staves, aligned with the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C).

Today @ Westminster

Worship Leaders

Preaching

Rev. Guy D. Griffith
Associate Pastor for Adult Education

Liturgist

Rev. Will Wellman
Director of Theology and Community Initiatives

Lay Liturgists

8:30 AM Richard Lane
11:00 AM Rudy Kalis

Music

8:30 AM Chamber Choir
11:00 AM Summer Choir

John Semingson
Director of Music Ministries

Shelia Pugh
Guest Organist

Flower Dedication

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in loving memory of William Albert Caver by from Jennifer, Giles, Henry, and Sara Jean Caver.

Mask Policy

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville is mask optional.

Hearing Assistance

We offer personal FM Receivers with an earpiece, located in the Narthex and in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser. Instructions can be found at each location.

Large Print Hymns

Looking for large-print hymns? They can be found in the Narthex at the Sanctuary entrance or in the Parlor on the Welsh dresser.

Recorded Worship Services

To watch a service at a later time, go to www.nashvillewpc.church and scroll down to the Worship Service Archive. Click on the service you would like to view.

Dial-a-Sermon

Dial 629.206.1073 after 10:15 AM each Sunday morning to listen to the sermon. The sermon will be available all week.

Childcare

Childcare is available on Sundays from 8:15 AM to 12:00 PM.

Nursery - Room 146

Toddlers - Room 152

2s and 3s - Room 151

Copyright Information

The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 1121525.

Our Mission

Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light found in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)



TODAY @ WESTMINSTER



**LIVING
OUT THE
WORD**

LOVE
RECONCILE
SHINE
TRANSFORM

What does the 'power of prayer' mean to you?

Have we domesticated the Bible? Are there Bible passages we just don't want to read in church? What is lost when we ignore parts of scripture? Are there some texts you wish weren't in the canon?

The word often translated as 'persistence' in Luke 11 is found nowhere else in the New Testament. What do you make of the gospel writer's choice of 'shameless disturbance' in the story?

Welcome

Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. Any who are interested in joining us in this journey are invited to contact one of the pastors on staff by calling 615.292.5526, the church office.



Summer Choir

Rehearse 9:45 AM • Sing for the 11:00 AM Service

Come sing with us!

If you are a rising ninth grader or older, we would love for you to try the Summer Choir. We rehearse each Sunday in the Chancel and sing for the service. You do not have to be with us each Sunday.

For more info, please contact John Semingson, johns@nashvillewpc.org or Dale Nickell, dnickell@nashvillewpc.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Covenant Class • Fellowship Hall

Please join us for an exploration of Mary Shelley's classic novel, *Frankenstein*. Shelley claimed that she wanted to tell a story about "the mysterious fears of our nature." We will interrogate what those fears entail, including our thirst for knowledge, our ambitions, and our inner psychological battles. At the same time, we will consider our essential search for familial and social responsibility, and most importantly what it means to be a creator, THE creator, and our limitations to bring light and benefit to mankind. Led by Sue Trout.

**Adult Education Classes
start at 9:45 AM**

Faith & Fellowship • 214

For more info, please contact
Donna Schwaber,
dkschwaber@gmail.com.

Murdoch MacLeod • Library

We will discuss this week's
gospel lesson.

For more info, please contact
Paul DeWitt,
pdewitt@comcast.net.

Youth

**Donuts & Devos
9:45 AM
Koinonia Youth Café**

Drop in and stay for
a few minutes or the
whole hour.

Everyone welcome!

Children

Summer Sunday School

No Sunday School
for the month of
July. Childcare is
available. Worship
bags are located by the
doors going into the
Sanctuary.

Childcare

Room 195
Nursery, Toddlers

Room 196
2s and 3s

**ROOM CHANGE
THIS WEEK ONLY.
PAINTING IN
PROGRESS.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS



First Grade Tutors Needed

A first grade reading tutor and a substitute tutor are needed at our partner school, Cockrill Elementary, starting in September. Tutoring is once per week from 1:20-2:05. Training is provided and a background check is required. Please contact Jennifer Anderson, andersonjl2001@yahoo.com, to volunteer or for more info.



Westminster Café

- Tuesday - Friday | 8:00 AM - Noon

Enjoy an intergenerational morning in the Cafe! For ages eight and up. Activities include potholders, pom poms and card making Wednesdays-Fridays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM; No registration required!



Youth Event - What's On Wednesday

- July 30 | 5:30 PM
- Join us for fun and games Pins Mechanical. Cost \$20
- Email Hannah Norris, hnnorris@nashvillewpc.org, to sign up.



Faith and Film

- July 30 | 6:30 PM Brown Bag Dinner | 7:00 PM Movie | Goodpasture Hall
- Join us for *The Tree of Life*.



Summer Book Study

- July 31 | 9:30 AM | Goodpasture Hall
- We will study Jaroslav Pelikan's *Whose Bible Is It?*



Ikebana Pottery

- Starts August 5 | 10:00 AM | Registration required.
- In this six-week session, we will hand build vases to make floral arrangements in the Japanese Ikebana tradition. We will also make a holder for the stems in the bottom of the vase, called a frog (English) or Kenzan (Japanese). For the last class there will be fresh flowers to make an arrangement for you to take home in your new vase.

Scan QR code to register.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Property Corner Update:

This spring and summer the Property Committee and staff have been very busy with several maintenance and repair projects.



West End Drainage:

The replacement of the stormwater drains continues. Just ask Guy. He has heard it all week. The team has had to dig out under the steps to go further into the pipeline. Care is being taken to prevent damage to the trees. The estimated cost of this project is more than \$110,000. Additionally, we will have to repair the damage in the basement area after the new stormwater piping is installed which includes new carpet and baseboards.



WSYC Projects

Painting continues in The Westminster School for Young Children (WSYC). Classrooms were identified needing cabinet and countertop replacement and repairs. That will happen in coming weeks. The playground fence has been replaced. A portion of the funding from the Property Reserves was approved from the church to share costs for these repairs. This project started this summer around other school activities (i.e. camp) and is planned to be completed before school begins. The Property Committee approved funds to offset WSYC's cost in the amount of \$84,000.

Care for our buildings and grounds is made possible through the Property Maintenance Reserve Fund. We welcome all questions or any gifts for the benefit of preserving our beautiful church. If you have questions or want more info, please contact Greg Cornish, gkcmhs@msn.com, or Jo Ann McFarlin, jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org.

Cities in the Bible

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

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

JERUSALEM
BETHLEHEM
NAZARETH
CAESAREA
BABYLON
NINEVEH
JERICHO

BETHANY
SHECHEM
SAMARIA
CORINTH
EPHESUS
HEBRON
JOPPA

HARAN
ERECH
GAZA
SUSA
UR

MINISTRY TEAM



Donovan Drake
Pastor
ddrake@nashvillewpc.org



Sophie Maness
Executive Director of Children's
& Community Life Ministries
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Stephanie Boaz
Parish Associate for
Congregational Care
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Adam DeVries
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John Semington
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Will Wellman
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