

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday June 29, 2026 - Psalm 138: 8

**The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever
— do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Read Psalm 138 for meditation and inspiration.

PRESBYTERIAN REV. JOHN WITHERSPOON WAS THE ONLY MINISTER TO SIGN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

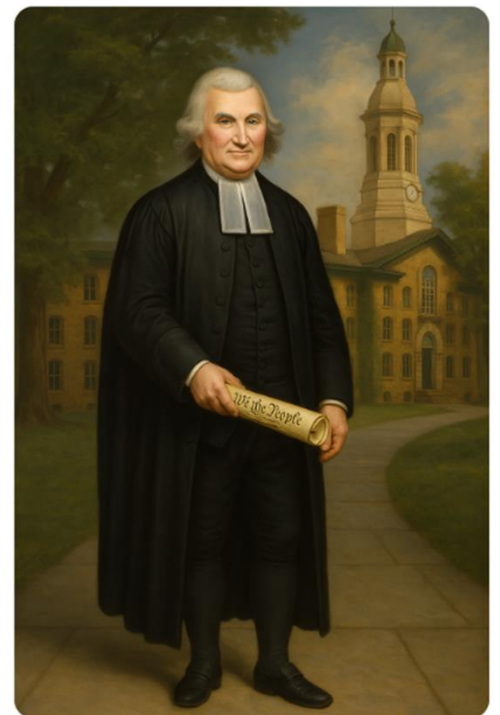


In Declaration of Independence by John Trumbull (1818), Witherspoon is the second seated figure from the (viewer's) right among those shown in the background facing the large table.

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

As a people of God and sons and daughters of the Covenant of Christ, we are an involved society of believers as a church. Like one of our forbearers in the faith, the Rev. John Witherspoon, Scottish immigrant and president of the Presbyterian College of New Jersey (later to become Princeton University,) we like him are known to roll up our sleeves and get busy doing God's work and engaging in "Kingdom Business."

Loving the loveless, offering hope to the hopeless, faith to the faithless is a part of our Spiritual "DNA." We work to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, take in the stranger, minister to the



ill, visit the prisoner, and care for the dying. That is what we do and that is what we are called as a people to be as we: "Love our neighbor as we love ourselves".

Jesus was asked, how much do we give and forgive? Seven times? His answer, 70 X 7" is where you begin. Who do we love as a neighbor? His answer via the parable of the Good Samaritan, is "Our neighbor the one who needs love most no matter who they are or where they come from." How do we find our way, live our life, and find the truth of God in this cold harsh world? His answer is, "I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life. No one comes to the Father except my me!"

Yes, John Witherspoon is one example of a person who was ready to get involved in helping to set right this upside-down world.

Blessings to all co-laborers in Christ.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger