



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Preparation for Worship

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prelude *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Sedio

* Call to Worship Psalm 146

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: **I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

Leader: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

People: **The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.
The Lord watches over the strangers.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 305 "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!" DARWALL'S 148th

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we are a forgetful church.

We try to hide our weakness,

but you have told us that your power is made perfect in weakness.

We avoid the stranger,

but you sent your apostles to distant lands,

bringing good news to unfamiliar people.

We spend time and treasure

in vain attempts to make our lives secure,

when you call us to bear each others' burdens

and give our lives for the sake of the gospel.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Increase our faith, expand our hope, and enlarge our love,

so that we may never live in a smaller world

than the one you have given us in Jesus Christ,

through whom we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581 GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen.**

11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, Acts 1:6-8 p. 884

Second Scripture Lesson, 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 p. 944

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "#yesanyway"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith From The Confession of 1967

**To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's
reconciling community. This community, the church universal,
is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's
labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and
from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and
given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity
with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

Offering

Offertory 9a Consecration Beck

Offertory 11:15a Dwell in the House Jones-Murphy

* Doxology, Hymn 606 OLD HUNDRETH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God,
all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly
host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 317 "In Christ There Is No East or West" McKEE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude Classical Postlude Haydn

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Dr. B. Hunter Farrell, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Pam Evans (9a), Mandy Pruitt (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *piano/organ*

Todd Monsell (9a), *soloist*

Rosemary Hughes (9a), *pianist*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Creighton Likes, Lindsay Donlan, Nikki Grumbine,

Tom Vanderbloemen, Ginny Bernard (9a), *greeters*

Elizabeth Timmons, Sam White, Mary Gentry,

Will Edwards, Roger Gower (11:15a), *greeters*

WORSHIP NOTES

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. The Family Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caregiver and includes worship livestream, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

WORSHIP BAGS

Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday.

WELCOME TO WPC!

Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.



Texts for vocal solos and choral music may be found online by scanning this QR code.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Cecilia Parks Satterfield*, to Brad & Jaime Satterfield, on Saturday, February 15, 2025.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 28TH!

Get ready for a week of fun, faith, and adventure as we explore the "Waves of Wonder" in God's creation through exciting lessons, creative crafts, games, and more! VBS is the perfect place for kids to grow closer to God and make lasting memories.

- Registration opens: February 28
- Event Date and Time: June 9-13, 9am-12pm
- Ages: Rising K5-5th grade
- Registration Link:
Visit the church's website to sign up!

Spaces are limited, and priority will be given to WPC members, so be sure to register early. We can't wait to see your child there as we embark on an unforgettable adventure!

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will next sing in worship on Sunday, March 9, at the 9a worship service. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays, February 25 and March 4, (7-7:45p) in the Choir Room. The Chancel Choir provides opportunities for WPC members and friends to sing in a choral group on an "as available" basis, and all are welcomed to participate! For additional information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER:

• **SOCIAL GATHERING**

The Men of Westminster will host a social gathering on Thursday, February 27, at Fireforge Brewery (311 E. Washington St) starting at 5:30p. Please join us for fellowship and an opportunity to meet other men in the church.

• **ANNUAL RETREAT**
MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER
APRIL 25-27, 2025

All men of Westminster are invited to the third annual men's retreat in Montreat, NC. Nick Carson, Associate Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$280. Sign up online at wpc-online.org. For more information, contact Tony Threatt (tony.threatt@gmail.com).

THE SESSION

The Class of 2025

<i>Jacob Barker</i>	<i>Nikki Grumbine</i>
<i>Marian Carpenter</i>	<i>Bill Holt</i>
<i>Lindsey Donlan</i>	<i>Ginny Reed</i>
<i>Carroll Farmer</i>	<i>Jordan Smith</i>
<i>Zach Freeman</i>	<i>Tom Vanderbloemen</i>
<i>Susan Grier</i>	<i>Parks Workman</i>

The Class of 2026

<i>Ben Bloodworth</i>	<i>Walker Miller</i>
<i>Emily Cole</i>	<i>Stan Pendergrass</i>
<i>Ingrid Erwin</i>	<i>Betsy Raines</i>
<i>Roger Gower</i>	<i>Jeff Reynolds</i>
<i>Amy Hawkins</i>	<i>Susan Robbins</i>
<i>Anne Howson</i>	<i>Zach Weaver</i>
<i>George McLarty</i>	

The Class of 2027

<i>Ben Dillard</i>	<i>Creighton Likes</i>
<i>Will Edwards</i>	<i>Carrie Marguet</i>
<i>Mary Mac Fairey</i>	<i>Trey Morrow</i>
<i>Kathryn Freedman</i>	<i>Mandy Pruitt</i>
<i>Mary Gentry</i>	<i>Elizabeth Timmons</i>
<i>Claire Gilliland</i>	<i>Sam White, Jr</i>
<i>George Howell</i>	

HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS

February is designated as Heart Month, focusing on heart health and cardiovascular disease prevention. What better way to celebrate this initiative than participating in a hands-only CPR class! According to the American Heart Association, about 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

On Thursday, February 27, at 4:30p, a 45-minute class will be held at Westminster in Room 209 and is open to 15 participants (teenagers and adults only). The class will teach basic hands-only CPR (compressions), NOT certification for full CPR training. We also hope to have an AED demonstration and practice as well. Contact Emily Cole (864-612-6185) with questions. To sign up for the class, go to events registration on the website.

Our Vision:
Open Minds
Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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www.wpc-online.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 23 - March 2, 2025

Sunday, February 23	
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	
Heritage Lecture Sunday	
9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	One Adult Sunday School
	Confirmation Class Meeting #3
	WestConnect (Miller - 213)
	WestConnect (Reynolds - 312)
	WestConnect (Buchanan - 313)
10:55	Sunday Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
2:00p	Incoming Elder Training
4:00	First Steps in Music (Class 1)
4:30	First Steps in Music (Class 2)
5:00	Middler Youth Group
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Youth Open Gym w/snacks
6:30	Senior High Youth Group
	Middler Choir Rehearsal
Monday, February 24	
3:30p	Women of Westminster Life
	Membership Committee Meeting
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous
Tuesday, February 25	
12:00p	Al-Anon Meeting
	Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, February 26	
9:30a	Weekday Chapel
2:15p	It's Elementary
3:30	Cherub Choir
4:30	Junior & Senior Choristers
6:00	WestConnect (Pam Evans - Family Lounge)
7:00	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 27	
10:00	Bible Study
4:30p	Hands On CPR Class
5:30	Men of Westminster Social Gathering
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous
Sunday, March 2	
Eighth Sunday after Epiphany	
9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	Sunday School
	WestConnect (Miller - 213)
	WestConnect (Reynolds - 312)
	WestConnect (Buchanan - 313)
10:55	Sunday Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
4:00	First Steps in Music (Class 1)
4:30	First Steps in Music (Class 2)
5:00	Middler Youth Group
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Youth Dinner
6:30	Senior High Youth Group
	Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Will Edwards

Have you ever been stressed, feeling the weight of the world on your shoulders, lost, broken... weak? I know I have. In that moment of weakness and vulnerability, did you have a sense of calmness, peace, a presence of strength that seemed to come from nowhere, only to realize it was God's grace?

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he talked about a thorn in his flesh that tormented him. Paul appealed to the Lord to have the thorn removed, but God said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." Because of this Paul said he would boast more gladly of his weakness so that the power of Christ may dwell in him. Verse 10 in Chapter 12 sums this up, "Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

A good friend of mine asked me if I ever heard the statement, God would never give you more than you can handle. I said I had. My friend said that is not quite right. God will give you more than you can handle because he wants us to rely on him. Pray. For His grace, mercy, and love will surround us.

There are many stories in the Bible where the central figure is in a state of weakness. When reading these stories, I have asked what more could this person endure. During my own struggles in weakness, I have looked up and said what more life could throw at me, how much more stuff could be piled on. How about you? Have you done the same thing? God is right there with us. His hands are on our shoulders. His arms embrace us. His grace surrounds us. It is hard to see while you are in the middle of it. But looking back, we were never alone. Our friends were there. That was God. A person you never met before offered a smile or held open a door. That was God. A friend whom you had not heard from in a long time suddenly reached out and asked how you were doing. That was God.

A couple of verses in Edwin McCain's song, Jesus, He Love Me are:

Times seem hopeless
The night too dark to see
The lone footprints on the road behind
Were the times when You carried me

Now I've held the hands of the devil
At the crossroads of my faith, yeah
And my Lord He came and rescued me
By His saving grace

In Christ, through the Holy Spirit, the grace of God strengthens us in weakness. It strengthens us every day.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins
on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

You are invited to begin this holy season with any of our Ash Wednesday traditions:

8-9a & 12-1p Prayer and imposition of ashes in the Columbarium

6p Worship service in the Sanctuary



2025 Heritage Lecturer

Join us this Sunday, February 23, 2025, to hear the Reverend Dr. Hunter Farrell preach at both 9a and 11:15a worship services. He will also lead a joint Sunday School class at 10a.

Hunter Farrell (doctor of anthropology, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú) is the Senior Teaching Fellow of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary’s World Mission Initiative (WMI). He worked for over thirty years as a missionary, director of world mission for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and a professor of mission and intercultural studies. He is the co-author, with Baljiedlang Khylllep, of *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility & Co-Development* (InterVarsity Press, January 2022).



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JOIN US FOR A NEW TERM OF ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER!

Classes will meet on February 16, March 2, March 9, and March 16.

On February 23, we will only have one class, which will be led by the Reverend Dr. Hunter Ferrell, this year's Heritage Lecturer.

Ruth

Led by The Reverend Ron Shive, retired PCUSA pastor
Room 209 and Streaming

Ruth is a “historical novella” of a young Moabite woman living in the time of the judges, around 1100 BCE. While this is a story that inspires Jews as it is read each year in celebration of the Festival of Weeks, it is not a story that many of us know well. Inspiration though awaits all of us as we take time to study and reflect on this short book of 85 verses. Walter Brueggemann says that Ruth is “a woman who acts decisively to create a future for herself in a patriarchal social context where no good future was on offer for her.” The idea of “creating a future where no good future is obvious” might just be worth considering during the difficult days in which we are currently living.

Let Justice Roll Down

led by WPC members, Bill Holt, Gaye Sprague, and Teresa Webster
Room 212

There are many examples of human use of God's creations of air, land, and water that resulted in harm to other humans. Even when we individually did not cause an environmental injustice, what is the Christian response to the results of that injustice and how can we do our best to avoid future such injustice?

Sunday School for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade meet on the 100 hall in the following classrooms:

- K-1st Grade Room 109
- 2nd-3rd Grade Movie Room
- 4th-5th Grade Room 112

Nursery is available for infants through 4K on the Mezzanine level. During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

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305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

317 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 race may be. All chil - dren of the
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.