



Palm/Passion Sunday
Preparation for Worship

God in highest heaven, how humbly you enter our world to reign: in Christ Jesus on a dusty road, riding a donkey. Help us to pave the way for your eternal realm with our prayer and praise, with our service and love, until the very stones cry out at the coming of your new creation; God our life, our light, our breath, save us in the hour of darkness and remember us in the glory of your eternal realm; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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 *All Glory, Laud and Honor* Shackley

* Call to Worship Zechariah 9:9

Leader: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
People: **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!**
Leader: Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he.
People: **Humble, and riding on a donkey; on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 196 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* Prayer of Confession

Everlasting God, in your tender love, you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death on the cross. Because we know where Jesus is headed this week, we have decided to run the other way. We have praised him this morning, but will betray him by Friday. We neglect the vulnerable, we prioritize our own comfort, and we avoid the cross. Forgive us, gracious God. When the road is too long and the cost is too high, increase our faith, and expand our hope. Remind us that even when we abandon Jesus, he will never abandon us. We ask it all in his holy name. 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, *Luke 19:28-40* p. 854

Second Scripture Lesson, *Luke 22:35-51* p. 858

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Can We Prepare for This?"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

The bread will be held and taken together. The cup will be taken individually.

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory 9a "Laudate Dominum" from *Vespers* Mozart
11:15a *Ride On, King Jesus* arr. Fleming

* Doxology, Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDETH

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 200 "A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd" CHRISTIAN LOVE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* Kerr

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Holly Vanderwal (9a), Jade Fountain (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Bronwen Forbay (9a), *soloist*

Katie Knauer, Kristen Blumer (11:15a), *soloists*

George Howell (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *head ushers*

Claire Gilliland, Stan Pendergrass, Mike Peters,

Amy Hawkins, Zach Weaver (9a), *greeters*

Bill Ballinger, Will Edwards, Anne Howson,

Tim Reed, Tony Threatt (11:15a), *greeters*

WORSHIP NOTES

Children are invited to be a part of the palm waving procession this Sunday in worship as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Gather in the Narthex ahead of the 9a and 11:15a services. Children will process with palms during the first hymn and return to sit with their families. Join us as we raise our palms and shout hosanna!

NURSERY

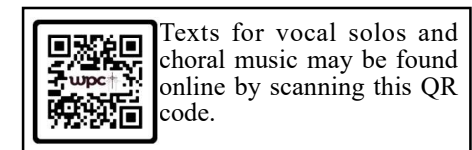
Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School 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.

We Remember in Prayer

Theresa Brown and her family on the death of Theresa's mother, Nancy Gentry, on Sunday, March 30, 2025, in Safety Harbor, FL.

Join Us in Welcoming BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Meriwether Craft Pressley*, to Al & Callie Pressley, on Wednesday, April 2, 2025.



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

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

As we search for a new AV Coordinator, we encourage your spiritual gift of patience with any unintended hiccups with sound or cameras that may occur during this time.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 9-10:30a on Sunday, April 27. Those who attend the class are invited to become members and be introduced during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

SPRING SERMON SERIES

The World Turned Upside Down: Exploring the Gospel of Luke

In some ways, Luke is the most well-known and beloved of the four Gospels. Only in Luke do we hear about shepherds at Christmas, the parables of the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, and the Easter story of the road to Emmaus. Luke is a Gospel with prominent themes of table fellowship, forgiveness, and joy. At the same time, some of the most challenging words and parables of Jesus are found in Luke—teachings that deal with repentance, money, and lost opportunities to live for God. Our sermon series this spring will explore Luke, and the "upside down" kingdom of God that Jesus preaches in this Gospel. Our subject this week is the Passion of Jesus.

Chorister Choirs Holy Week Musical: *The Tale of the Three Trees*

The Junior and Senior Chorister choirs under the direction of Diana Dailey and Hunter Smith will present their spring musical, *The Tale of the Three Trees*, on Palm Sunday afternoon, April 13, 3p in the Sanctuary. This musical is based on an American folk tale about three trees with dreams of grandeur, but whose ultimate fates serve Holy Purposes the likes of which they could have never dreamed. This is a wonderful way to begin your Holy Week reflections.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Witness and Service has donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support disaster relief for the wildfires in California and South Carolina and humanitarian efforts to assist refugees from Ukraine. If you would like to join this effort, you can do so through Westminster. Please note in your giving that your designation is for wildfire response or refugee assistance in Ukraine.

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

• WPC's Creation Stewardship group will hold its quarterly meeting this Sunday, April 13, at 9a in Room 211. All who are interested in the care of God's creation are invited to participate.

• WPC is participating in a lay-led ecumenical outdoor worship service on Sunday, April 27, at 8a. This service will last 30 minutes and it will be held along the Swamp Rabbit Trail behind First Baptist Church in front of a native riverbank garden. All are welcome!

ACOLYTES

WPC children in grades 3-5 are invited to serve as acolytes, carrying the light of Christ into the sanctuary at the beginning of Sunday worship services. Children who would like to serve as an acolyte must complete a 15-minute training session (at which a parent must also be present). Training sessions will be held three to four times per year following an 11:15a worship service. To enlist your child for acolyte service, or if you need additional information, please contact Hunter Smith at hsmith@wpc-online.org.

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION

Our goal is to provide elements for communion that all are able to consume. It is an act of hospitality mirrored in God's hospitality inviting us to the table. The bread we are offering at today's communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sour dough (rice flour, water), rice starch, cornstarch, sugars (rice syrup, caramelized sugar), modified cellulose, psyllium seed husk (vegetable fibre), sunflower oil, pea protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fibre, rice flour, quinoa flour, salt, guar gum, corn flour. May Contain: Mustard, Sesame.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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.

- Event Date and Time: June 9-13, 9a-12p
- 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 is a part-time music ensemble for those who would like to participate in a choir at Westminster, but who cannot make a commitment to weekly rehearsals. The Chancel Choir will participate in Music Sunday on May 4. Rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays, April 22 and 29 from 7-7:45p. For more information contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

LIGHTLY SEASONED GROUP

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. We will next meet on Saturday, April 26, 6:30p at the home of Diane & Larry Gluck (52 Club Forest Ln). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's web site ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

THE HARBINGER
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160)
Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Street, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
April 13-20, 2025

Sunday, April 13
Palm Sunday
9:00a Worship Service with communion
Creation Stewardship Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect [Bloodworth/Fairey - Room 211]
WestConnect [Stevenson - Room 213]
10:55 Weekly Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service with communion
12:30p Stated Session Meeting with
Confirmands
12:45p Connections Group
3:00 Cherubs/Choristers Spring Program
4:30 Baptism Class
5:00 Middler Youth Group
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal
Senior High Youth Group

Monday, April 14
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 15
12:00p AI-Anon Meeting
6:00 Men of Westminster Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 16
12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
2:15 It's Elementary
4:30 Jr & Sr Choristers Rehearsal
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 17
10:00a Bible Study
6:00p Maundy Thursday Service
with communion
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, April 18
Weekday School Closed
12:00p Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 20
Easter Sunday
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Morning Reception
11:15 Worship Service
No WPCYG Events

NEW BEGINNINGS: THE FLOWERING CROSS

Beginning after the Good Friday service, you are invited to bring flowers or greenery from your home to "flower" the cross on the lawn by the bell tower.

We believe the flowering cross can act as a reminder of the power of our faith and our collective witness. The cross at full bloom proclaims Christianity's most profound truth: that God creates hope where there was none, life from death, an empty tomb from a Roman cross. In flowering the cross we are reminded that there is no Easter celebration without first confronting Good Friday, no empty tomb without the shadow of the cross. And, most importantly, we are reminded that death, exile, and darkness never have the final word.

The flowering cross appears in Christian art as early as the 6th century and is believed to have come from a legend that Christ's cross burst into bloom after Jesus' death.

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | April 13, 2025 | No. 1

From the Pews, Katie Reid

Holy Week feels complex. It's filled with big emotions. Some confident, some passionate, and some uncomfortable. Not unlike our day-to-day, we are faced with navigating a pairing of grief and hope. A whiplash that feels intense to ride.

At the beginning of Holy Week, Jesus and his disciples reach the outskirts of Jerusalem. Jesus sends two of his disciples to travel ahead into town, find a colt and bring him back. Jesus, the Son of God, shows us that he knows every detail of the plan - where the colt is, what to say. He knows what is to come, including his own death on the cross. When the disciples return with the colt, they dress an honored seat of cloaks upon its back for Jesus and continue on. Creating a celebrated path, awestruck townspeople and visitors lay down their own cloaks along the road. Defiant joy seems to brim through the followers' eager, vocal praises as they all come down from the Mount of Olives. This triumphal journey almost seems deliberately eye-catching. The Pharisees spot the commotion and order Jesus to quiet his disciples. But Jesus doesn't yield. He answers, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Can you feel the rumblings? Are you comfortable in it? Does it make you itch? Does your heart race? Do you want to see more or look away? Do you decide to sit in the mix of it all - willing to be a part of what's next?

Jesus is intentionally walking towards his death and resurrection. We can feel the hum of anticipation. The celebration of a fulfilled Old Testament prophecy brimming. And with a forecast of muddled emotions and political positions, Jesus continues to embrace, nurture, and lead his followers through an ever-evolving journey. And in his humanity, Jesus also knows the anxiousness we may feel and willingly sits with us in it. On Palm Sunday, here, I am reminded of the significance of sitting in the simmering. Not alone. Holding space with open palms for both grief and hope.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS
April 13 & 27 (not Easter Sunday)

The Bible Through Time and Place
Led by Dr. Bryan Bibb,
Professor of Religion - Furman
University with a specialty in
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

Room 209 and Streaming

This series will look at the Bible from a
different sort of perspective, broadly
called "reception history." We will
focus on the way that the Bible has
been edited, translated, transmitted,
published, and interpreted over
time. In fact, there has never been
just one "Bible," but myriad forms of
"the Bible" that have meant different
things and served different purposes.
How has "the Bible" been understood
over time, and how does "the Bible"
function in today's religious and
cultural contexts?

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will
meet in the Charter Room on Monday,
April 21, at 7p. Ann Hicks will lead the
discussion of Small Things Like These,
a novel by Claire Keegan. All are
welcome.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING LUNCHEON

Ladies of Westminster are invited
to our Annual Spring Gathering
on Sunday, April 27, at 12:15p in the
Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served
and we will honor our new Honorary
Life Members for 2025. We will have
David White, CEO and Founder of
Fostering Great Ideas as our guest
speaker. Lunch will be chicken salad,
croissant, fruit, and a dessert (\$12pp).
Sign up today!

WOMEN'S SOCIAL

Tuesday, May 6, 6p
New York Butcher Shop
(2222 Augusta St)

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CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, April 15

- Circle 7, at the home of Terri
LeGrand (16 N Brookwood Dr) at
6p.

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The Luncheon Group will meet
Wednesday, April 16, at 12:30p in
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HOLY WEEK
APRIL 13-20, 2025
Palm Sunday
The Lord's Supper at 9a &
11:15a
with Sunday School at 10a
Maundy Thursday
with Communion, 6p
Good Friday, noon
Easter Sunday
services at 9a & 11:15a
with a reception
in the Atrium at 10a

EASTER LILIES/MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

Those desiring to remember loved ones during the Easter season may do
so in three ways. Money may be given to purchase a lily for the sanctuary
(\$15.00), or a contribution may be made to either the Endowment Fund or
the Heritage Lecture Fund. Deadline is Sunday, April 13.

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

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Spotlight on Westminster’s Endowment

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Did you know that Westminster has an Endowment?

Westminster’s Endowment was established in 1996 with a generous gift from one of our members. Over the course of its nearly 30 years of existence, the Endowment has grown through investments and additional gifts.

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Under the terms of the original gift to the Endowment, the Endowment funds an annual contribution to our Witness & Service budget. No funds from the Endowment are currently used to fund any other church operations.

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The amount grows as the Endowment grows. In 2024, the Endowment contributed \$38,420 to the Witness & Service budget.

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How else is the Endowment used?

The Endowment has four funds: an Undesignated general fund, Witness & Service, Westminster Weekday School (WWS), and Divinity School Scholarships.

For most of our history, the Undesignated fund has not been large enough to justify expenditures from it. One of the Endowment Committee’s goals is to increase the Undesignated fund to the point at which it can actively support WPC’s vision, pillars, and goals.

The WWS fund was recently established and has not yet been used to fund WWS operations. The Divinity School Scholarship fund distributes a small annual scholarship to any Westminster member who is attending seminary; two of our members have received such grants in recent years.

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Who manages the Endowment funds?

The funds are currently invested through The Presbyterian Foundation. Our Endowment Committee oversees investment of the Endowment.

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Our Vision:

*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:

*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:

*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

These stanzas for Palm Sunday have been selected and translated from a much longer Latin poem written by a bishop who was the leading theologian in Charlemagne's court. They are sung to a 17th-century German chorale, as adapted for these words in the mid-19th century.



praise, our tri - um - phant song of joy: "Ho - san - na,
ción y pro - rrum - pen con voz triun - fal: "¡Ho - sa - na!

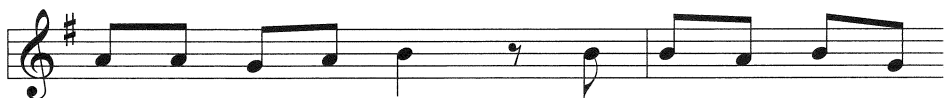


ho - san - na to Christ! Ho - san - na, ho - san - na to Christ!"
¡Ho - sa - na al rey!" "¡Ho - sa - na! ¡Ho - sa - na al rey!"

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd 200



1 A cheer - ing, chant - ing, diz - zy crowd had
2 They laid their gar - ments in the road and
3 When day dimmed down to deep - ening dark the
4 Lest we be fooled be - cause our hearts have
5 In - stead of palms, a wind - ing sheet will



stripped the green trees bare, and hail - ing Christ as
spread his path with palms and vows of last - ing
crowd be - gan to fade till on - ly tram - pled
surged with pass - ing praise, re - mind us, God, as
have to be un - rolled, a car - pet much more



king a - loud, waved branch - es in the air.
love be - stowed with roy - al hymns and psalms.
leaves and bark were left from the pa - rade.
this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.
fit to greet the king a cross will hold.

This Palm Sunday hymn recreates the contrasting sounds of Holy Week, moving from the noisy public acclaim of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the solitary silence of his body being prepared for burial. It gently reminds us that self-giving is the mark of Christ's true sovereignty.