



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship

Lord, hear;
Lord, forgive;
Lord, do.
Hear what we speak not;
forgive what we speak amiss;
do what we leave undone;
that not according to our words, or our deeds,
but according to your mercy and truth,
all may work for your glory,
and the good of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

— Maria Ware (1798)

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 Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring Bach

* Call to Worship Psalm 33

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
People: **Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.**
Leader: Sing to God a new song; play skillfully on the strings,
praise God with loud shouts.
People: **Let your steadfast love, O Lord,
be upon us, even as we hope in you.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 410 "God is Calling through the Whisper" W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

* Prayer of Confession
**God of grace, we confess that we think we can save ourselves.
We believe that our own actions, accomplishments,
and beliefs will justify us, and we hesitate to trust in your mercy.
We set out to prove ourselves worthy,
and overlook the worth you have already given us.
We cast judgments on others who think differently than us,
and build fences around your grace.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Teach us to loosen our grip on truth,
to release our illusions of control,
and open our hearts to the movement of the Spirit. 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.**

The Sacrament of Baptism Porter Elia Papapieris

Congregational Response Baptized in Water BUNESSAN



Children in K5 – first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination
First Scripture Lesson, Matthew 11:25-30 p. 792
Second Scripture Lesson, Acts 15:3-11 p. 899
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**
Sermon "Unnecessary Burdens"

Responding to **God’s Word**

*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles’ Creed
**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less Mote
* Doxology, Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDT
**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 837 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" SHOWALTER
* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude Toccata in Seven Rutter

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Nick Carson, *preaching*
Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*
Amy Grace, *scripture reader*
Betsy Raines, *sponsor*
Benjamin Barker, *hammered dulcimer*
Ben Edwards, *head usher*
Zach Weaver, Emily Cole, Pam Evans,
Ben Dillard, Elizabeth Timmons, *greeters*
Ella Heegard, *acolyte*

WORSHIP NOTES

Benjamin Barker is a Hammered Dulcimerist, Harpist, and Composer based in Greenville. He was the winner of the 2021 National Hammered Dulcimer Championship.

NURSERY

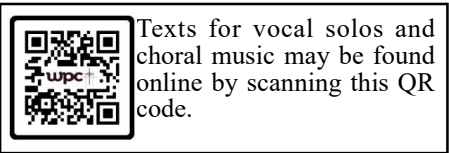
Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School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

Join Us in Welcoming **BAPTISM**

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Porter Elia Papapieris, daughter of Nik & Taylor Papapieris.



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

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, June 14, 2025, Cooper Kemp and Caroline Odom were united in marriage in Greenville.

BIRTH

The birth of a son, Andrew William Rhodes, to Johnny & Lizzie Rhodes, on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

ACTS: CHARACTERS AND CONGREGATIONS

The book of Acts was written by the author of Luke, and the themes in both books echo one another. From the story of Pentecost to Paul's missionary travels, Acts narrates the characters, conflicts, and congregations of the earliest Christian community. Following the success of our Luke series, we will, this summer, preach through the book of Acts, meeting new characters and exploring Paul's journeys, overhearing conflicts around inclusion and ritual, and mapping the lessons that the first church can teach the modern church. This week's theme is gentiles in the early church.

GIVING TO WPC

Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge or give an unpledged gift to Westminster online? Your gift helps our church keep faith with community partners and maintain excellence in our programming. To learn more about online giving, or to make a gift, follow the prompts from the QR code below.



GAME GROUP

Join us Mondays in July at 7p in the Entrance Pavilion for our first series of Mahjong Nights! Open to all who love the game or want to learn it. If you have a game set and would be willing to bring it, please contact Emily Lordo (emilydlordo@gmail.com). See you 7/14 at 7p!

CUBA WITNESS AND SERVICE TRIP
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JULY 15

Join us as we visit our Witness and Service partners at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba November 8-15, 2025. During our time together we will learn about the cultural, social, and economic realities of living in Cuba, engage theology with seminary students and professors, and join the seminary in their ongoing library renovation. Contact Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org) with any questions and to sign up.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, July 16, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
IT'S ELEMENTARY!

WPC's weekly after-school faith formation program, It's Elementary, begins September 3. Each Wednesday afternoon from 2:30-4:30, children in grades 1st-5th will grow in faith, deepening their Bible knowledge and skills, worship and arts experiences, and witness and service learning. Volunteers are at the heart of It's Elementary! No teaching experience required, just helping hands, listening ears, and a joy for children. If you'd be interested in donating your time each week or every other week to this special program, please contact Caroline Blouin (cblouin@wpc-online.org).

UNITED MINISTRIES

United Ministries is in need of canned food to restock their food pantry. They are requesting: canned fruit, peas, green beans, pasta, beef stew, canned chicken, rice, tuna, jelly, Ramen Noodles, Saltines, and oatmeal. If you would like to donate, please drop off cans in the United Ministries Donations Cabinet located in the Friendship Court.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. We will next meet Friday, July 18, at 6:30p at the home of Mary & Ted Gentry (26 Quail Hill Dr). 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!

SOTERIA WOMEN'S HOUSE

We are looking for women to bring dinner to the residents of Soteria Women's House (includes participating in a fellowship hour during dinner with the ladies). Fellowship dinners take place on the second Monday of each month. Please email Brooke Culclasure (bculclasure@mac.com) if you are interested in being added to the informational list.

BINGO NIGHT

WPC Kids presents its 2nd annual Bingo Night! Fun for the whole family! On Wednesday, July 30, from 6-7:30p in the Fellowship Hall, children and their families are invited to a fun night of games, food, and prizes. A hot dog supper will be served. There is no cost, but please register so that we can have an accurate headcount. Look forward to seeing you there!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
July 13-20, 2025

Sunday, July 13
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
No Summer Choir

9:00a	Middler Book Club
	Montreat Pre-Trip Meeting
	Witness & Service
	Committee Meeting
9:40	Weekly Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Fellowship with donuts
	Senior High Book Club

Monday, July 14

7:00p	Mondays in July Game Group
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, July 15

12:00p	AI-Anon Meeting
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Wednesday, July 16

12:30p	Luncheon Group
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Thursday, July 17

8:00p	Narcotics Anonymous
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Friday, July 18

6:30p	Lightly Seasoned Group
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Sunday, July 20
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Senior High Montreat Youth Conference
No Summer Choir

9:40	Weekly Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Fellowship with donuts

Ben Dorr is on sabbatical
May 19 - August 10.

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Katie Reid

In sixth grade Sunday School, I was taught a “yoke” was a wooden frame that was placed on oxen to help distribute the weight of the load carried in a wagon. Or similarly, humans could use a yoke frame to help a single person carry heavier loads of water, grain, or other cargo with more ease. My husband and son would probably prefer to turn this into a physics lesson. For us “feelers,” I present to you an alternate definition I learned as an adult. A “yoke” in the Jewish tradition of Jesus’ time could also describe a rabbi’s teachings - a personal connection to a rabbi’s interpretation and understanding of the Torah and Jewish texts. Interesting that whether we’re talking about oxen or Jewish knowledge, both definitions carry an intimate connectedness. And Jesus tells his listeners through gentleness, that his “yoke is easy; the burden is light.”

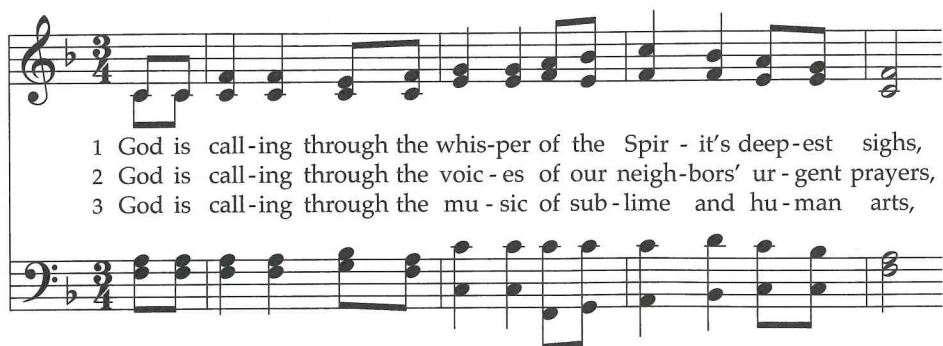
We can likely all empathize with the weight of a burden. Some burdens feel navigable and others feel heavier than lead. Burdens have existed since long before us. Roman regulations and Jewish laws shaped all communities of Jesus’ followers. Jesus’ teachings countered their restriction and exhaustion with more than just respite.

In Matthew 11:25-30, Jesus speaks directly to his fatigued people. He doesn’t dismiss their journey or pity their circumstances. He empowers them. He wraps them in compassion. He offers rest and perspective unlike any others before them. May we feel that same comfort and embrace as his words and teachings wash over us.

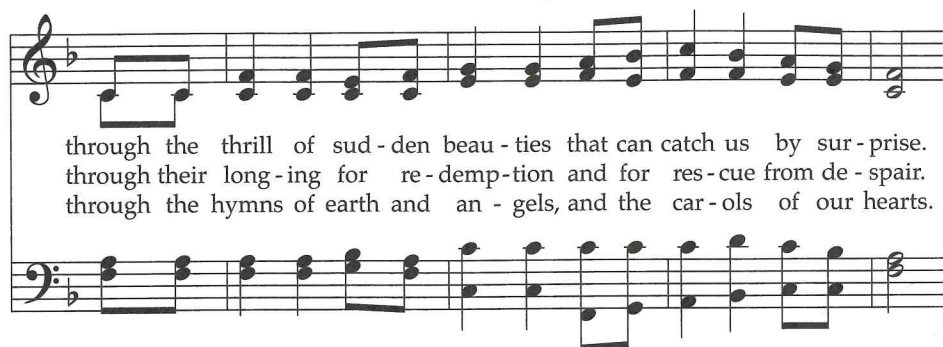
*Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

- Matthew 11: 28-30

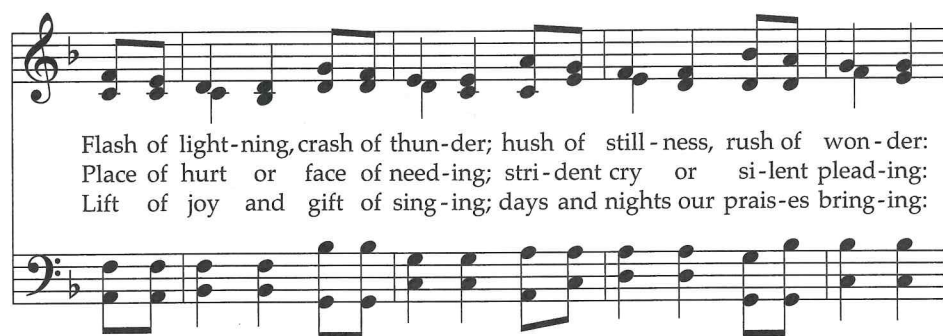
410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
 2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
 3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
 through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
 through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
 Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
 Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
 God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
 God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus,

lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
 lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.