



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for Worship

You are home to the exile
touch to the frozen
daylight to the prisoner
authority to the silent
anger to the helpless
laughter to the weary
direction to the joyful:
come, our God, come.

— Janet Morley

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 Adagio Grieg

* Call to Worship Psalm 97

Leader: The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice!
People: **We tremble at God's awesome works!
The heavens proclaim God's righteousness!**

Leader: The Lord is our guard and protector!
People: **Light dawns and joy fills our hearts!
Rejoice in the Lord and give thanks!**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 330 Psalm 124 "Our Help Is in the Name of God" OLD 124th

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
you desire that the world might see your light
shine through us.**

**Yet we confess our vision is clouded
by the shiny distractions the world offers.**

**We turn from your way,
hurting the very ones we were called to serve,
in our action and our inaction.**

**We grow frustrated with each other,
seeking to silence anything besides our own desires.**

**We fail to see your righteousness and champion greed
and discord in the name of power and popularity.**

Forgive us.

**Melt us and mold us into more faithful disciples,
seeking your light, reflecting your mercy,
praying for freedom, and sharing your grace. 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

Mark Stephen Ahnrud, III

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, *John 17:20-26* p. 880

Second Scripture Lesson, *Acts 16:16-34* p. 900

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Free?"

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 Hear My Prayer arr. Hogan

* Doxology, Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDTH

**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 653 Psalm 107 "Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries" MORNING SONG

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude Life Everlasting Paxton

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Lauren Slingerland, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Coleman Dixon, *sponsor*

Kathryn Freedman, *scripture reader*

Julie Florin, *guest organist*

Kristen Blumer, Bob Dellert, Rosemary Hughes, Kathi Hurst, Marlon Hurst,

Tim Judd, Derek Pitman, Emily Sweezey, Tina Wood, *choral ensemble*

George Howell, *head usher*

Jeff Reynolds, Amanda Warren, Kathryn Freedman,

Tim Reed, Mary Gentry, *greeters*

Manning Dailey, Luke Pruitt, *acolytes*

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.

In Memoriam

Gareth Crain

(12/22/1949 – 7/20/2025)

"I am the resurrection and the life."

– John 11:25



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



Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Mark Stephen Ahnrud, III*, son of Stephen & Emily Ahnrud.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Hazel Claire Coleman*, to Adam & Abbie Coleman, on Monday, July 7, 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 freedom and prayer.

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

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 7/21 at 7p!

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.

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, August 5, at 6:30p in the Library. Ingrid Erwin will review *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi. All are welcome to attend.

FAITH FORMATION TRAINING EVENT
AUGUST 10, 11A-1p

The Education Committee is hosting a Faith Formation Training Event on August 10 from 11a-1p in the Fellowship Hall. This event is for all members working with Children or Youth during the upcoming program year including WPCYG Advisors and Chaperones, Pleasant Valley tutors, WPC Kids (Sunday School, It's Elementary, Nursery, Children's Church). Lunch and childcare will be provided. Our special guest this year is Leigh Anne Ring, Educator and Minister from Richmond, VA. Contact Mary Kathleen Duncan or Lauren Slingerland for more information.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 16, for our annual Day of Service, benefiting our local Witness and Service partners! We'll gather at the church for breakfast before going to our various service sites. Sign-ups are on the website.

As we prepare for a new school year to start this fall, we are recruiting Homework Helpers to serve at Pleasant Valley Connection. Homework Helpers meet weekly with a student at PVC to help with homework and practice reading, math, and language. If you are interested in signing up or learning more, email Nick Carson at ncarson@wpc-online.org.

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May 19 - August 10.

Grow

Our Help Is in the Name of God 330

(Psalm 124)

1 Our help is in the name of God the Lord, the One who
 2 When e - vil seems to have the up - per hand, call on God's
 3 Praise God the Lord who hears the cap - tives' prayer. Like birds es -

made the heav - ens with a word, cre - a - tor of the
 name: the Lord, the great "I AM." When trou - bles rise and
 cap - ing from the fowl - er's snare we are set free; our

world, each liv - ing thing. Come, bless the Lord, lift up your
 all a - round gives way, re - mem - ber God stays with us
 prais - es now as - cend: "Blessed be the Lord: Cre - a - tor,

hearts and sing: "Our help is in the name of God the Lord."
 night and day. Our help is in the name of God the Lord.
 Sav - ior, Friend. Our help is in the name of God the Lord."

As a means of fostering the continuity of Reformed tradition, this paraphrase of Psalm 124 has been created to fit the tune that was used for the French paraphrase of Psalm 124 in the 1551 Genevan Psalter. The early psalters in English generally avoided such longer poetic forms.

653

Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries

(Psalm 107)

1 Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in
 2 If you have ev - er wan - dered where no hu - man
 3 If you have ev - er lived in - side the pris - on
 4 If you drew near the gates of death, too sick to

trou - bled days with won - drous works to hu - man - kind that
 help was near, and in your trou - ble cried to God, who
 of your gloom and cried to God, who broke your bonds and
 eat or dress, and cried to God, who heard your voice and

call for high - est praise. Let all who know God's
 res - cued you from fear, then thank the God of
 raised you from your tomb, then praise the One who
 healed all your dis - tress, then sing with sounds of

The singing of psalm paraphrases is the most long-standing musical practice in Reformed tradition, dating from John Calvin's own congregation in Geneva in the 16th century. This recent paraphrase of Psalm 107 illustrates the interpretive flexibility that is a hallmark of the form.

sav - ing love sing grate - ful songs al - ways.
 stead - fast love who dries your ev - ery tear.
 sets you free, who makes dry plac - es bloom.
 ho - ly joy; God's won - drous works pro - fess.

5 If you have felt your courage fail
 before a violent sea
 and cried to God, who stilled the storm,
 and made the wild wind flee,
 then in the congregation praise
 the One who heard your plea.

6 So praise the One whose love is great,
 whose kindness is well-known.
 Consider well the healing hand
 and help you have been shown,
 and tell the world what God has done.
 Praise God and God alone!

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -
 joyce! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
 voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.