WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, July 27, 2025 |On Demand on YouTube|10a



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

Welcome and Announcements						
	Leader:	The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.				
	People:	And also with you.				
Prelu	ıde	Adagio	Grieg			
* Call to Worship			Psalm 97			
	Leader:	The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice!				
	People:	We tremble at God's awesome works!				
	Leader:	The heavens proclaim God's righteousness The Lord is our guard and protector!	5.			
	People:	Light dawns and joy fills our hearts!				
	•	Rejoice in the Lord and give thanks!				
	All:	Let us worship God!				
* Hym	in 330	Psalm 124 "Our Help Is in the Name of God"	Old 124 [™]			
* Pray	er of Confe	ssion				
	Merciful	,				
		sire that the world might see your light				
		hrough us. onfess our vision is clouded				
		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.						
		and mold us into more faithful disciples,				
seeking your light, reflecting your mercy,						
praying for freedom, and sharing your grace. Amen.						
* Assu	rance of Pa					
	Leader:	Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.				
	People:	, U				
* 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,						
Grost, us a was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,						

world without end. Amen, Amen.



Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination	n			
First Scripture Lesson, John 17:20-26				
Second Scripture Less	son, Acts 16:16-34	p. 900		
Leader: The Wor				
People: Thanks	be to God.			
Sermon	"Free?"			

Responding to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith		The Apostles' Creed			
and in Jesus Chu who was conceiv born of the Virg was crucified, do the third day he	ne Father Almighty, Maker of heav rist his only Son, our Lord; ved by the Holy Ghost, in Mary, suffered under Pontius I ead, and buried; he descended int rose again from the dead;	ven and earth, Pilate,			
he ascended into	o neaven, ne right hand of God the Father Al	mighty			
	shall come to judge the quick and				
I believe in the Ho					
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;					
the forgiveness	of sins; the resurrection of the bo	dy;			
and the life ever	lasting. Amen.				
Prayers of Thanksgiv	ving 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

C = ...

Life Everlasting

*All who are able may stand

Paxton

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Lauren Slingerland, preaching Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist* Coleman Dixon, sponsor Kathryn Freedman, *scripture reader* Julie Florin, *quest 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

Texts for vocal solos and ■ 大 wpc+ 大 choral music may be found online by scanning this QR 熟知 code.

Leading Worship this Morning

(12/22/1949 - 7/20/2025) "I am the resurrection and the life." - John 11:25

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 OR code below.



SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir returns to service in August. There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday, July 30 from 7-8p to preview the pieces for the month. Sunday rehearsals will be held weekly in August at 9a in the choir room. This is a low-key, low-commitment way to participate in the choir. Adults and youth are invited to join in! For additional information, contact Marlon Hurst.

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!

REGISTER NOW FOR IT'S ELEMENTARY!

We're excited to welcome students back to It's Elementary. our afterschool faith formation group for children in 1st-5th grades. It's Elementary meets on Wednesday afternoons during the school year from 2:30-4:30p and runs from September 3-April 29. This year's theme is Grow with God. Through Bible study, crafts, recreation, and games, children will explore how to live out these spiritual fruits in their daily lives. Member registration is currently open on the church's website. Non-member registration opens August 1. We are looking forward to a year of growth and discipleship together! Email Lauren Slingerland or Caroline Blouin (cblouin@wpconline.org) with questions.

PLEASANT VALLEY CONNECTION HOMEWORK HELPERS

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.

GAME GROUP

Join us Mondays in July at 7p in the Entrance Pavilion for our first series of Mahiong 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 vou 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.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

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 vear 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.

WESTMINSTER DAY OF SERVICE

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.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

On August 31, we will be hosting a Rise Against Hunger event following 10a worship at 11:15. We will work together to pack over 25,000 meals. This will bring WPC's lifetime meal packing to over 100,000 meals! Sign up by emailing Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

Image: Book and Comparison of the second second

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 27-August 3, 2025

Sunday, July 27

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

No Summer Choir

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

Monday, July 28

- 7:00p Mondays in July Game Group 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous
- Tuesday, July 29
 - 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, July 30

6:00p Bingo Night Summer Choir Rehearsal 7.00

Thursday, July 31

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, August 3

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Summer Choir Rehearsal Weekly Session Meeting 9:4010:00 Worship Service 11:00 Fellowship with donuts Sixth Grade Day (11a-1p Youth Suite)

> 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



joy of the gospel. oppression.

circumstances? believe.



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From the Pews, Deb VanderVeer

Acts 16: 16-34

Well, this is certainly some interesting scripture. In this story we have a little occult, an exorcism, some political intrigue, an earthquake and in the end exuberant

The gospel often challenges the established order and those who profit from

It isn't your average Lord's day and there are lots of unanswered questions.

God has already sprung disciples from the Roman prisons twice in Acts (5:17 & 21; 12:6-11), so we shouldn't be surprised that the Philippian jail can't hold Paul and Silas. The earthquake in this text is a strange one as it is one that "sets free" instead of trapping or crushing. This earthquake is the visible manifestation of God shaking this world's powers to their foundation.

This is the escape story without an escape. Paul and Silas don't leave the prison. Being God's servants does not necessarily mean one escapes from dangerous places or situations, but it does mean the opportunity to be the voice and hands of Christ. Paul and Silas share the gospel in prayers and songs with their fellow prisoners (is that why the other prisoners, whose chains and doors also came undone, stayed put?) Then they go on to save the Jailer both from suicide that Roman honor expected with a failure of duty (see 12:19); and from a life without faith in Christ.

So the Jailer's first question is "what do I have to do to be saved?" Why would he ask this? Why didn't he order everyone back to their cells? Why did all the prisoners, when chains and doors came undone stay?

Now back to Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God at midnight in jail. This shows their unwavering faith and praise in the face of adversity, leading to miraculous release and the ultimate conversion of the jailer and his family. Midnight symbolizes a time of darkness, both literal and spiritual. Their prayers and singing serve as a powerful witness to the other prisoners and a testament to God's power to intervene even in the darkest situations.

The Jailer asks Paul and Silas, "what do I have to do to be saved?" Asking this first seems a bit odd. Yet, there had to be something about Paul's kind compassion that must have made the jailer realize or recognize he was in the presence of someone who knew what life was about. Paul is stable, calm and at peace with the universe. Maybe the jailer suddenly sees his life with a clarity he has never known before.

The Jailer's life is changed by the gospel. He washes the wounds of Paul and Silas and he become their host. The call to faith in verse 31, rejoicing over faith in verse 34b frames a scene which we find the work of the Lord being spoken in verse 32, serving others in verse 33a, baptism in verse 33b and sharing a meal in verse 34a. This is a picture of the church's life, which the jailer and his family has now entered. Some other questions that might arise are: What "chains" or "prisons" might be holding us back from experiencing the fullness of God? Have you ever felt trapped by physical, emotional, spiritual or unjust circumstances? Or just overwhelmed by

Jesus is the ultimate chain breaker, offering salvation and freedom to all who

Encouragement can be found in living lives of faith, prayer and praise, knowing God's power is always at work to bring liberation in unexpected ways.



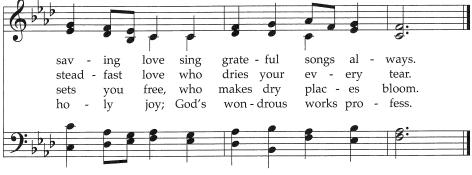
As a means of fostering the continuity of Reformed tradition, this paraphrase of Psalm 124 has been created to fit the tune that was used for the French paraphrase of Psalm 124 in the 1551 Genevan Psalter. The early psalters in English generally avoided such longer poetic forms.





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.

THANKSGIVING



- 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



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.