# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

#### THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 21, 2018 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, full of compassion, I commit and commend myself to you, in whom I am, and live, and know. Be the goal of my pilgrimage, and my rest by the way. Let my soul take refuge from the crowding turmoil of worldly thought beneath the shadow of your wings. Let my heart, this sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God. Amen.

Augustine of Hippo

#### **GATHERING THE COMMUNITY**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

People: And also with you.

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

The Beasley Family

# PREPARING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE "I Need Thee Every Hour" arr. Purifoy
CHORAL INTROIT (11:15) "Be Still and Know I am God" Berthier

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 104)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

People: You are clothed with honor and majesty,

wrapped in light as with a garment.

Leader: O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all.

All: Let us worship God!

\* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 611 HYMN TO JOY

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

# \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near. Forgive us, O Lord. Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit, so that all may know your justice and peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

\* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)

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.

At 9:00 a.m. worship, K5 and first grade children leave for Children's Church.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:15am)

Katie Ray Thomas and Anna League Thomas

Presentation
Questions to the Parents
Question to the Congregation
Thanksgiving over the Water
Baptisms
Prayer

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome and Congregational Response



At 11:15 a.m. worship, K5 and first grade children leave for Children's Church.

# **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON I Thessalonians 5:14-18 (N.T., p. 205)

ANTHEM "The Lord's Prayer" Malotte
GOSPEL LESSON Luke 11:1-13 (N.T., p. 72)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Ben Dorr

"Without Ceasing"

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed, *Traditional* (see insert)

Iverson

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal page 35, Traditional

OFFERING

Offertory

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

\* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* HYMN No. 543

GREEN TYLER

arr. Hustad

"O Christ, Surround Me"

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL RESPONSE (11:15) "God Be With You"

Tomer J.S. Bach

\* POSTLUDE Fugue in C Major

\*All who are able may stand

If you are visiting this morning, we extend a special welcome to you. Westminster Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a community of faith open to all.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHERS: 9:00 a.m. Brian Blount 11:15 a.m. Will Quinn

SPONSOR: 11:15 a.m. Becky Warth GREETERS: 9:00 a.m. Collin Mackie

Collin Mackie, David Massey

Mike Hall

11:15 a.m. Lee Freeman, Brad Lucas

Coleman Kirven

9:00 a.m. Leigh Stuckey
Bryce Nelson
Fred Carpenter

11:15 a.m. Fred Carpenter 9:00 a.m. Amelia Kent, Lilly Rayneri

11:15 a.m. JP Hartman, Amelia Key

#### PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

LITURGIST:

**ACOLYTES:** 

LAY READERS:

# TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

# STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link "Worship via Live Streaming."

# CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist
9:00 a.m.
Jim Wilkins, tenor

11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir Derek Pitman, directing

#### NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During the worship service, children in rising K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children's Church in **Room 206**.

# **BAPTISM**

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Katie Ray Thomas* and *Anna League Thomas*, twin daughters of Drew & Amy Thomas.

# **BIRTH**

A daughter, *Fiona Sawyer Grace*, was born to Joseph & Erika Grace on Monday, September 24, 2018, in Greenville.

# GRAB A NAMETAG THIS SUNDAY!

Due to the overwhelming response in the last month, we will continue to wear nametags each Sunday. Please find them near entrances and gathering areas and share your name with others. You'll be glad you did!

# CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections will meet **Sunday**, **October 21**, at **12:45 p.m.** at **Soby's** (207 S. Main St). RSVP to *Ruth Johnston* (ruthjohnst@aol. com or 201-6117) *by Friday*, *October 19*. Newcomers are welcome!

# In Memoriam

Nina O. Daniel

10/10/1921 - 10/12/2018

"In my Father's House are many mansions."

# LET US PRAY FOR:

The Family of June White The Family of Jack Miller The Family of Nina Daniel

# **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Session has called a congregational meeting for next **Sunday, October 28**, immediately following the **11:15 a.m.** service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect this year's Nominating Committee. The proposed names for this year's Nominating Committee are the following: *Howard Boyd (chair), Pete Roe, Christa Likes, Elizabeth McElveen, Ilene Schlacht, Julia Bellew, Jason Farmer, Kristen Blumer, and Trey Morrow.* The Nominating Committee will have two responsibilities: to consider members to nominate for the Session, and to consider members to nominate for an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

#### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN **CHURCH**

#### ADULT GROUPS

- Hiking Group: Will meet in the church parking lot on Wednesday, October 24, at 8:30 a.m. for a hike of Jones Gap Trail. **Hike Leader:** *Durden* Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com).
- Luncheon Group: Will meet Wednesday, October 24, at 12:00 p.m. in Room 211. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (1maryanncox@gmail.com).
- Needle Arts Group: Will meet Wednesday, October 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion. Group **Leader:** Terry Gentry (tmgentry@) charter.net).
- Couples Bible Study (ages 50+): Will meet Wednesday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Charter Room. Leaders: Dick & Mary Sargent (mfsdesigns95@ yahoo.com).

# TRICK OR TREAT MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On Tuesday, October 30, our children will bring joy to residents at the Westminster Retirement Home as they go trick-or-treating in their Halloween costumes. Arrive at the church at 5:30 p.m. for a quick pizza dinner in the Fellowship Hall, then walk across the street at 6:15 p.m. to begin our visit which will be finished before 7:00 p.m. There is no cost, but we ask that you please sign up on the church website under the event registration so that we know how much pizza to buy. Contact Associate Pastor Barbara Stoop (bstoop@wpc-online.org) for more information.

# IT'S ADVENT **DEVOTIONAL TIME**

Volunteers are needed to write a short devotion for the annual Presbyterian Women's Advent Devotionals. Email Presbyterian Moderator, Katherine Mattice, (kmmarketingservices@gmail. com) if you are willing to help. All submissions are due Friday, November 2.

# **CAROLINA/WESTMINSTER CONNECTION**

Calling all Carolina High/Westminster Connection volunteers (old & new)! If you are planning to be involved this year, please come to one of these informational meetings: Sunday, November 4 at 9:00 or Sunday, November 11 at 9:00. Both meetings will be held in Room 209. If you have questions, contact Jennifer Dillard (jdillard@wpc-online.org)

#### MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will continue their book study on Monday, October 22, at **6:00 p.m.** in **Room 209-C**. We will study the book, Mere Christianity, by C.S. Lewis. All WPC men are invited to participate. For more information, contact Rick Carpenter (608-1881).

#### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Get your day started right with the "It's Never Too Early to Talk About Jesus" study and discussion group, meeting again Tuesday, October 23, at 6:00 a.m. in the Women's Lounge. This semester we will study Rachel Held Evans's New York Times bestseller, A Year of Biblical Womanhood (available in the WPC library). Questions? Contact Kathleen Reynolds (kathleenmreynolds@yahoo. com, 346-3155) or Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey.

#### LIGHTLY SEASONED GROUP

Lightly Seasoned, a fellowship group for WPC members in their fifties (loosely defined), will meet Friday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Sherry & Ron Tate (207 Camille Ave.). Watch your e-mail for more information, or if vou don't hear from us, please contact Jean Atkins (jean@indconinc.com) or Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org). We hope to see you!

#### WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

Westminster's Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month, in the church library, at 7:00 p.m. On Tuesday, **November 6,** our book will be a memoir, Born A Crime, by South African author and comedian Trevor Noah. We will not meet during the month of December, but will discuss the book Swing Time by Zadie Smith at our meeting in January. Newcomers are always welcomed.

# INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more Westminster Presbyterian Church, membership here, and what it means to be Presbyterian are invited to attend our New Member Class from 8:30-10:30 a.m. on Sunday, **November 11**. Those who have been baptized and who wish to become members may do so on Sunday, November 11, during the 11:15 a.m. worship service or on a future new member Sunday. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Jennifer Dillard (jdillard@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424.

#### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOL. LXX Sunday, October 21, 2018

# 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 :11 - CC 20/05

Church 232-2424	School 232-5766
Pastor	Ben Dorr
Phone	214-704-6427
	bdorr@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Barbara Stoop
Phone	313-6956
	bstoop@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Leigh Stuckey
Home Phone	451-7688
	lstuckey@wpc-online.org
Associate Pastor	Mary Kathleen Duncan
Phone	283-0092
r	nkduncan@wpc-online.org
Parish Associate for Older Ad	ults Amos Workman
Phone	423-0070
a	workman@wpc-online.org
Pastor Emeritus	Zane Moore
Director of Music	Mark Kemp
	mkemp@wpc-online.org
Children's Choir Coordinator	Kathryn Knauer
	kknauer@wpc-online.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Jennifer Dillard
	jdillard@wpc-online.org
Organist	Nancy Smith
	nls1949@aol.com
Weekday School Director	Cara Puntch
•	cpuntch@wpc-online.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Owens
,	sherri@wpc-online.org
Office Manager	Michelle Little
	michelle@wpc-online.org
Secretary	Wendy Bagley
•	wendy@wpc-online.org
Director of Nurseries	Janell Pitman
	jpitman@wpc-online.org
Director of Hospitality	Lisa Ridge
1	lisa@wpc-online.org
Building Supervisor	Steve Phillips
0 1	stevep30@bellsouth.net

#### FIND WPC ONLINE

Visit us online to find up-to-date photos, videos and information about our programming: http://www.wpc-online.org

facebook.com/wpcgreenville

twitter.com/wpcgreenville

instagram.com/wpcgreenville youtube.com/wpcgreenville

gplus.to/wpc

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** October 21 - 27, 2018

No. 23

SUNDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	Library Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
11:15 a.m.	Worship Service
12:15 p.m.	Stated Session Meeting
12:45 p.m.	Connections Group Event
5:00 p.m.	Middler Group Meeting
5:15 p.m.	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m.	Youth Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Middler Choir Rehearsal
	Senior High Group Meeting
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous

Greenville SC 29605.	1	0.00 p.m.	7 Heonones 7 Hiony Hious
CHURCH	STAFF	MONDAY	Closed
rch 232-2424 or none	School 232-5766 Ben Dorr 214-704-6427 bdorr@wpc-online.org	Weekday School 6:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study NAMI Narcotics Anonymous
ciate Pastor cone ciate Pastor ome Phone	Barbara Stoop 313-6956 bstoop@wpc-online.org Leigh Stuckey 451-7688	6:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study Staff Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
h Associate for Older Ad none	423-0070 workman@wpc-online.org Zane Moore Mark Kemp mkemp@wpc-online.org Kathryn Knauer kknauer@wpc-online.org Jennifer Dillard	WEDNESDAY 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Hiking Group Event Weekday Chapel Weekday Chapel Luncheon Group Meeting "It's Elementary!" & Tweens Cherub Choir Rehearsal Junior & Senior Choristers Needle Arts Group Meeting Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Couples Bible Study (50+)
nist	jdillard@wpc-online.org Nancy Smith	10:00 a.m.	Thursday Bible Study

10:00	a.m.	Thursday Bible Study
12:00 ]	p.m.	<b>Endowment Committee Meeting</b>
8:00 j	p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

# FRIDAY

Lightly Seasoned Group Event

### THE SESSION The Class of 2019

Howard Boyd	Collin Mackie
Sarah-Ann Davis	Susan McLeod
Beri Draganic	Elizabeth Palmer
Kathryn Freedman	Joanne Sweeny
Paul Grier	Rob Warren
Walter Hinton	Stephen Woods
TEL CI	63030

#### The Class of 2020

Becca Donohue	Christa Likes
Lee Freeman	Jon McKnight
Mike Hall	Parks McLeod
TO CO	0.0004

### The Class of 2021

Kristin Burrell	Elizabeth McElveen
Phillip Cox	Grier Mullins
Ted Gentry	Pete Roe
Philip Land	Gaye Sprague
Brad Lucas	Catherine Stoddard
David Massey	Freddie Williams



#### WHY WE ARE IN

After moving to the Augusta Road area several years ago and visiting several churches, Jill and I literary walked across the street to visit. We were deeply moved by the open and welcoming spirit of the community. We appreciated the inclusive spirit, outwardly focused missions, and intellectually stimulating sermons and Sunday school lessons. The weave of inspiring leadership, beautiful space, and wonderful music was the perfect fit for us.

There are many opportunities for us to engage here at WPC. Jill supports the church's effort to help the homeless ministry in GAIHN. My intellectual curiosity attracted me to volunteer in the church library...and what a hidden gem this is! It has been a blessing to work with Pat Shufeldt and my library colleagues.

After reflecting on what we have received from being part of Westminster and the theme of "I'm in," Jill and I are both committed to supporting WPC both with our finances and our time. When we give to WPC, we know that our dollars are thoughtfully used for both church and community needs. We are moved by the Maya Angelo quote, "When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." Please consider all the blessings you have received from being part of the Westminster community and thoughtfully consider your pledge this year.

Phil McCreight

#### 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.

#### A Note from Ben about the Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is probably the best known of the creeds and confessions in our PC (USA) <u>Book of Confessions</u>. It is also the oldest creed, taking its first form in the 2nd century as a response to the heresy of Marcionism. From its earliest days, the Apostles' Creed has been the baptismal creed of the church, which is why we say it any time we have a baptism.

Starting with today's worship service, we will recite the creed as it appears in our <u>Book of Confessions</u>, which includes the phrase "he descended into hell" immediately after "crucified, dead, and buried."

Why would we include this phrase in the creed when Westminster hasn't been saying it that way for many years? One reason is that this is the full version of the creed, but the rationale goes deeper than that.

I do not understand the phrase "descended into hell" as referencing the cartoonish place with fire and the devil and demons of every sort. Nor is it a statement that says some people go to heaven and some to hell after they die. Theologically, this part of the creed tells me that there is no place in this world that the love of God won't go. In other words, there are many people in this world who live in their own personal "hell"—because of violence, because of illness, because of fear, because of poverty. When we recite the phrase "descended into hell," it affirms for me that Christ is determined to go there too. It is a phrase that echoes the Apostle Paul's affirmation that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Through the years, I have known many church members who had trouble saying this or that part of the Apostles' Creed. That is perfectly fine. We don't say the Creed because we are required to believe every last idea within it. We say it because it represents the faith of the larger church to which we belong, a church that has existed for centuries before we arrived on the scene. In a day and time that emphasizes individual identity, reciting any confession or creed is a way of saying that we belong to something much larger than ourselves.

In the not-too-distant future, I plan to preach a sermon on the Apostles' Creed and its value to the church today. As always, please feel free to ask any questions you have about this creed or any other. My hope is that the small changes we are making to our worship will spark a good conversation for all of us about why we worship the way we do.

#### 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.

#### A Note from Ben about the Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is probably the best known of the creeds and confessions in our PC (USA) <u>Book of Confessions</u>. It is also the oldest creed, taking its first form in the 2nd century as a response to the heresy of Marcionism. From its earliest days, the Apostles' Creed has been the baptismal creed of the church, which is why we say it any time we have a baptism.

Starting with today's worship service, we will recite the creed as it appears in our <u>Book of Confessions</u>, which includes the phrase "he descended into hell" immediately after "crucified, dead, and buried."

Why would we include this phrase in the creed when Westminster hasn't been saying it that way for many years? One reason is that this is the full version of the creed, but the rationale goes deeper than that.

I do not understand the phrase "descended into hell" as referencing the cartoonish place with fire and the devil and demons of every sort. Nor is it a statement that says some people go to heaven and some to hell after they die. Theologically, this part of the creed tells me that there is no place in this world that the love of God won't go. In other words, there are many people in this world who live in their own personal "hell"—because of violence, because of illness, because of fear, because of poverty. When we recite the phrase "descended into hell," it affirms for me that Christ is determined to go there too. It is a phrase that echoes the Apostle Paul's affirmation that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Through the years, I have known many church members who had trouble saying this or that part of the Apostles' Creed. That is perfectly fine. We don't say the Creed because we are required to believe every last idea within it. We say it because it represents the faith of the larger church to which we belong, a church that has existed for centuries before we arrived on the scene. In a day and time that emphasizes individual identity, reciting any confession or creed is a way of saying that we belong to something much larger than ourselves.

In the not-too-distant future, I plan to preach a sermon on the Apostles' Creed and its value to the church today. As always, please feel free to ask any questions you have about this creed or any other. My hope is that the small changes we are making to our worship will spark a good conversation for all of us about why we worship the way we do.

In Christ, Ben

#### 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.

#### A Note from Ben about the Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is probably the best known of the creeds and confessions in our PC (USA) <u>Book of Confessions</u>. It is also the oldest creed, taking its first form in the 2nd century as a response to the heresy of Marcionism. From its earliest days, the Apostles' Creed has been the baptismal creed of the church, which is why we say it any time we have a baptism.

Starting with today's worship service, we will recite the creed as it appears in our <u>Book of Confessions</u>, which includes the phrase "he descended into hell" immediately after "crucified, dead, and buried."

Why would we include this phrase in the creed when Westminster hasn't been saying it that way for many years? One reason is that this is the full version of the creed, but the rationale goes deeper than that.

I do not understand the phrase "descended into hell" as referencing the cartoonish place with fire and the devil and demons of every sort. Nor is it a statement that says some people go to heaven and some to hell after they die. Theologically, this part of the creed tells me that there is no place in this world that the love of God won't go. In other words, there are many people in this world who live in their own personal "hell"—because of violence, because of illness, because of fear, because of poverty. When we recite the phrase "descended into hell," it affirms for me that Christ is determined to go there too. It is a phrase that echoes the Apostle Paul's affirmation that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Through the years, I have known many church members who had trouble saying this or that part of the Apostles' Creed. That is perfectly fine. We don't say the Creed because we are required to believe every last idea within it. We say it because it represents the faith of the larger church to which we belong, a church that has existed for centuries before we arrived on the scene. In a day and time that emphasizes individual identity, reciting any confession or creed is a way of saying that we belong to something much larger than ourselves.

In the not-too-distant future, I plan to preach a sermon on the Apostles' Creed and its value to the church today. As always, please feel free to ask any questions you have about this creed or any other. My hope is that the small changes we are making to our worship will spark a good conversation for all of us about why we worship the way we do.

Ben