

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Sunday, September 1, 2019**

**10:00 a.m.**

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**GATHERING THE COMMUNITY**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

People: **And also with you.**

**PREPARING FOR GOD’S WORD**

INTROIT “Gather Us In” Haugen

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time,

People: **Gather us in this time.**

Leader: Christ our Lord, who sets the table and invites us to take our seat,

People: **Gather us in this place.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, stir in us a new communion here and in your world,

All: **Gather us in to worship God!**

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 396 HOLY MANNA**

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Though we have heard that the humble ones will be exalted, we live as if we did not know your Word. We seek power and privilege over humility and compassion. We climb ladders of success rather than humble steps of justice. We still wrestle for seats of honor, and we still try to limit the guest list at your table. Forgive us in Christ, our model of true humanity, and convict us to reflect the depth of your love. In your loving kindness, help us amend what we are, and direct what we will be, so that we may walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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.**

*Rising K5 & 1st Graders are invited to Children’s Church.*

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 112 O.T., p. 490

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 14:1, 7-14 N.T., p. 849

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Lauren Slingerland

“Table Talk”

**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 INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING**

THE LORD’S PRAYER *Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

**OFFERING**

Offertory “Let There Be Glory and Praise” arr. Hayes

**\* 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. 769 FOR EVERYONE BORN**

“For Everyone Born”

**\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**\* RESPONSE** Argentine

“May the Hope of God Go with Us”

**\* POSTLUDE** "God of Grace and God of Glory" arr. Page

*\*All who are able may stand*

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**HEAD USHER:** Steve Dowe  
**SPONSOR:** Mike Hall  
**GREETERS:** David Massey, Gaye Sprague  
Talitha Allen  
**LITURGIST:** Ben Dorr  
**ACOLYTES:** Davis Fairey, Mary Mac Fairey  
**LAY READER:** Ilene Schlacht

**PARKING**

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

**TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER**

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 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](http://www.wpc-online.org) and click the link “Worship via Live Streaming.”

**CHURCH NOTES**

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

*Nancy Smith, organist*

*Judy McKenney, alto*

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

**GRAB A NAMETAG THIS SUNDAY!**

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!

**LET US PRAY FOR:**

*The Family of Margaret Sherwood  
The Family of Elizabeth Lindsay  
Gretchen Reed & family*

**FALL**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Our summer schedule of one worship service at 10:00 a.m. (with no Sunday School) will conclude this Sunday, September 1. **On Sunday, September 8, we will kick off our new Sunday School year with worship at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and worship at 11:15 a.m.**

**SYMPATHY**

We extend sincere sympathy to Gretchen Reed on the death of her mother, Greta Taylor, on Thursday, August 22, 2019, in North Augusta, SC.

**HEALTH MINISTRY**

We are offering free blood pressure screenings this **Sunday, September 1**. The screenings will take place in the **Friendship Court** following the **10:00 a.m.** service. If you have any questions or if you are a healthcare professional and would like to help, please contact *Tim Miller* (627-0725).

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER CHURCH-WIDE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

Join us after worship to pack 15,000 meals for communities worldwide. Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030. This **Sunday, September 1**, we will gather in the **Fellowship Hall** to pack food kits following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

**BAPTISM CLASS**

If you are interested in having your child or children baptized at Westminster, you are invited to attend a brief class on baptism taught by Ben Dorr. The next class will be **Sunday, September 15, at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room**. Please email Michelle in the church office at [michelle@wpc-online.org](mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org) if you are planning to attend. Save the date!

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club meets the first Tuesday of most months, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. For September 3, the book will be the very popular *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. For the October 1 meeting, the group will read *Haunting Bombay*, a novel by Shilpa Agarwal. Join us!

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

From 10-11:00 a.m. each Thursday morning during the school year, our church has a Thursday morning Bible Study which will begin again on September 5 in the Charter Room. The Bible study will be taught by Ben Dorr and we invite all of those, new or old, to join us for this in-depth look at our faith. Enter at the church office side of the campus. If you have questions or would like more information, contact the church office at 232-2424.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections will meet at Stella's Southern Brasserie (340 Rocky Slope Rd.) on Sunday, September 8 at 12:45 p.m. All are welcome! Call or email Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst@aol.com or 201-6117) to RSVP no later than Friday, September 6.

ADULT GROUPS

- Needle Arts Group:** Will resume Wednesday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion. This is a small group that enjoys working on any needle art such as sewing, knitting, smocking, crochet, needlepoint and other projects. We would love to have you join us while you work on your project or just join us for the companionship of this small group. For any questions contact Terry Gentry (tmgentry@charter.net).

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Charter Room on Monday, September 16. Jan Haubenreich will lead the discussion of *Benediction*, a novel by Kent Haruf. Read the book and join us for an interesting evening. All are invited.

ADULT CHOIR SCHEDULE RETURNS

With the return of two services for the fall, the Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Choir will resume their regular rehearsal routines. The Sanctuary Choir meets every Wednesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and sings each week in 11:15 a.m. worship. The Chancel Choir rehearses twice each month on Tuesdays from 7:00-7:45 p.m. and leads 9:00 a.m. worship once each month. The first Chancel Choir rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3. Childcare is available for all adult choir rehearsals by contacting the church office in advance. For more information about these and other choirs, please contact Mark Kemp, Music Director (mkemp@wpc-online.org).

**SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON**  
Senior Adults are invited to wear your school colors and join together for the 2nd Annual Fan Appreciation Day. Join us Tuesday, September 17, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 209. Lunch is \$7 per person. Reservations must be made by Thursday, September 12, with the church office.

UNITED MINISTRIES FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is in need of peanut butter, dry milk, and other non-perishable food items. Donations may be left in the labeled cabinets in the Friendship Court.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Men of the Church will be back up at Camp Thornwell October 16-20 for our fall mission trip. We'll have indoor and outdoor construction, demolition, and landscaping projects for all skill levels plus evening fellowship. Come up for some or for all - every bit will help the kids at Thornwell to have fun camp experiences. For questions about Camp Thornwell, our involvement, or to find out how to get involved, please contact Jeff Reynolds (rjreynocu@yahoo.com or 617-5152).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

Interested in what Women of Westminster are doing? Contact the church office or LeAnne White (leannejw@charter.net) to be added to the email distribution list to keep up to date with monthly volunteer opportunities in our community and with special events throughout the year!

THE HARBINGER WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2310 Augusta Road 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 Road, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

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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

September 1 - 7, 2019

SUNDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Rise Against Hunger Service Project Event
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

Church Office Closed

Weekday School Closed

- 6:15 p.m. NAMI
- 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting
- Al-Anon
- 7:00 p.m. Westminster Book Club

WEDNESDAY

- 3:00 p.m. It's Elementary
- 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee meeting
- 4:30 p.m. Junior & Senior Chorister Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Thursday Bible Study
- 12:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

THE SESSION

The Class of 2020

Ben Alexander	Michael Hoffman
Rita Barker	Steve Johnson
Roxanne Cromartie	Coleman Kirven
Becca Donohue	Christa Likes
Lee Freeman	Jon McKnight
Mike Hall	Parks McLeod

The Class of 2021

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

The Class of 2022

Talitha Allen	Michael Dixon
Sarah Beasley	Ben Edwards
Brian Blount	Ashley Gettys
Scott Clark	Anna Hanor
Brandon Coker	Susan Jones
Bob Dellert	Becky Warth



BEING HUMBLE

In today's world, we have YouTube stars and the Instagram famous. These are people that are finding "success" by focusing on and promoting themselves. They are not alone. We are all told that to get ahead, we need to be noticed, to acquire accolades and awards, and to try and win. Technology has created methods to quantify and track our success by tallying our likes, re-tweets and followers and tracking the growth of these numbers can be addictive. Additionally, many of our careers depend on attracting new customers or clients, which is done through net-working, advertising and promoting ourselves and what it is that we do well. None of this is necessarily bad; however, it inherently focuses our intention on ourselves and it can eclipse our engagement with God and others.

In today's scripture lesson, Jesus, through the parable of the banquet seating, tells of the virtue of being humble, of taking the worst seat rather than the seat next to the host where the guest will be noticed. A central message here is that we need to humble ourselves to God and acknowledge that we do not know all and to be open to his teachings and messages. Another key message of this scripture is to put others before ourselves. And while this sounds right, and on a gut level feels right, it does not spell out how we put others before ourselves.

In my readings about humbleness, several themes emerged. One is that the humble person believes that all humans have inherent value; you are not any more important than the person next to you. As an example, the humble leader will listen to others and will openly accept the ideas of their followers that are better than the leader's own ideas. They don't stubbornly insist that it be done their way. Another theme is that the humble person seeks to spotlight and lift up others. Many people, when reflecting on the success they have had in life, will recognize the support and encouragement of a friend, teacher, mentor, or parent. Being humble really does take many forms.

While the value of being humble seems clear both in our relationship with God and others, and there are many studies that have established that humble people are happier, more stable and, paradoxically, very successful, it is not necessarily easy to focus or maintain our attention on others. As a matter of fact, to do so is to push against what society is telling us we must do to get ahead. Also, it requires us to check our ego, the very ego that is getting built up through our acquisition of awards, accolades, likes and follows, and appreciate the value of others. It is not an easy road to follow. However, remembering the words of C.S. Lewis can be a useful, simple tool to guide us in our efforts, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."

Terrell Mills