

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Sunday, January 19, 2020
9:00 and 11:15 a.m.**

Second Sunday after Epiphany

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Attributed to Francis of Assisi

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

Hunter Williams

PREPARING FOR GOD’S WORD

PRELUDE Voluntary on LOBE DEN HERREN Walthers

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 40:4-5

Leader: Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not go astray after false gods.

People: **You have multiplied your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us, O Lord; none can compare with you.**

Leader: Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

All: **Let us worship God!**

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 35

LOBE DEN HERREN

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good and gracious God, we know that we have strayed from your path and followed false gods. We have found the idols of consumption, control, violence, and greed to be irresistible. We prize our own wisdom instead of trusting yours. We obey our own instincts instead of walking in the footsteps of your Son. Forgive us, cleanse us, and give us a fresh start, Holy One. Help us to see the world as Christ saw the world, approaching our neighbor with compassion, offering grace to our enemy, and treating each person as your beloved child. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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.

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 49:1-6 O.T., p. 592

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 4:18-22 N.T., p. 785

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Ben Dorr

“Follow Me”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER 11:15

Billings

“I Waited Patiently for God”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Hymnal page 35, Traditional

OFFERING

Solo/Anthem “Will You Come and Follow Me” arr. Trenney

* 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. 749

WE ARE CALLED

“Come! Live in the Light!”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

“Amen”

Keen

* POSTLUDE

“You Shall Go Out with Joy”

Wagner

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHERS: 9:00 a.m. Anne Nuttall
11:15 a.m. Will Quinn

SPONSOR: Brandon Coker
GREETERS: 9:00 a.m. Scott Clark, Grier Mullins
Phillip Cox

11:15 a.m. Anna Hanor, Ben Edwards
Kristin Burrell

LITURGIST: Lauren Slingerland

LAY READERS: 9:00 a.m. Les Hicken
11:15 a.m. Gwen Young

ACOLYTES: 9:00 a.m. Lucy Cole, Braden Cox
11:15 a.m. Eliza Barker, Madeline Barker

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 9:45 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.

Judy McKenney, soloist

11:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

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

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Mary Lawson* on the death of her mother, Roselle Scales, on Monday, January 13 in Greenville.

LET US PRAY FOR:

Mary Lawson and family

On Sunday, February 2, Lauren Slingerland will be ordained and installed as our Associate Pastor for Children at our 11:15 a.m. service! This is an important and exciting occasion for Lauren and for our congregation. A reception in celebration of Lauren’s ordination and installation will be held in the Sanctuary Atrium following the service.

GIVE TO DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS:

Witness and Service designated over \$30,000 to Disaster Assistance in 2019 and has pledged at least \$10,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in 2020. PDA supports immediate response efforts to address national and international disasters — most recently the earthquakes in Puerto Rico and fire crises around the world. If you would like to donate to relief efforts thru PDA, please place a check made out to WPC with a notation designating PDA Crisis Relief. Your act of open-hearted giving is a support to those who walk the hard road to recovery, assuring them of the hope that God delivers among the chaos of disaster.

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, January 26, at 4:00 p.m.** in the **Charter Room.** Please email Michelle in the church office at michelle@wpc-online.org if you are planning to attend.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MEN'S GROUP BOOK STUDY

The Men's Group will meet again on Monday, January 20, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 209-C. We are studying the book, The Bible Jesus Read, by Philip Yancey. All WPC men are invited to participate and newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact Rick Carpenter (608-1881).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

Circle #7: Will meet Tuesday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr., 29605). Talitha Allen, chair (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

ADULT GROUPS

- Luncheon Group: Will meet Wednesday, January 22, at noon in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (1maryanncox@gmail.com).
Couples Bible Study Group (50+): Will meet Wednesday, January 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Charter Room. Leaders: Dick & Mary Sargent (dicksargent39@yahoo.com).
Hiking Group: Will meet Thursday, January 23, at 8:00 a.m. in the church parking lot. We will be hiking the Graybeard Trail in Montreat. Bring your lunch and water. Hike Leader: Kathryn Algary (kaalgary@gmail.com or 907-7291).

Women of Westminster: Women's Retreat February 21-23, 2020. Registration available at www.wpc-online.org. Deadline: January 21.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Charter Room. Sonya O'Neal will lead the discussion of Liberation Theology for Armchair Theologians by Miguel A. De La Torre. Read the book and join us for an interesting evening. All are invited.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

"Lightly Seasoned" - a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined) - will meet Friday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Todd & Sara Harward (74 Woodvale Ave). Watch your e-mail for more information, or, if you don't hear from us, please contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for more information. We hope to see you there!

JUSTFAITH GROUP

JustFaith Phase II, Caring for Each Other, will begin Monday, February 3, from 6-8:30 p.m. in the Charter Room. For more information call Susan McLeod (787-6262), Susan Fender (905-5466), or Bill Holt (982-3368).

YOUNGISH AT WPC

Young...or youngish? We're generous with the term around here. If you're somewhere between 20-something and 40-something we hope you'll join us for study and fellowship this semester. We're continuing our series on miracles, and we're meeting at some of Greenville's hottest spots. Our first meeting is Wednesday, February 5 at The Commons (147 Welborn St.). Drop by around 6:30 p.m. There will be childcare at WPC beginning at 6:15 p.m. Watch the Harbinger and our email newsletter for upcoming dates and locations. For more information or to be added to our newsletter contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOL. LXXI

Sunday, January 19, 2020

No. 37

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 at Greenville SC 29605.

Table with 2 columns: Church Staff and Weekday School Staff. Lists names and contact info for Pastor Ben Dorr, Associate Pastors Leigh Stuckey and Mary Kathleen Duncan, Parish Associate for Older Adults Amos Workman, Music Director Mark Kemp, Children's Choir Coordinator Kathryn Knauer, Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Dillard, Youth Intern Lauren Ghighi, Organist Nancy Smith, Weekday School Director Cara Puntch, Financial Secretary Sherri Owens, Office Manager Michelle Little, Secretary Wendy Bagley, and Director of Nurseries Janell Pitman.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS January 19 - 25, 2020

Calendar of events for Sunday through Saturday. Sunday: IHN leaves, Youth Ski Trip, Worship Service, Library Committee Meeting, Sunday School, Stated Session Meeting, Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Meeting, Alcoholics Anonymous. Monday: Church Office & Weekday School Closed, Men's Bible Study Group, NAMI, Theology Reading Group, Narcotics Anonymous. Tuesday: Staff Meeting, AI-Anon, It's Elementary Volunteer Training Meeting, PW Circle #7. Wednesday: Luncheon Group Meeting, It's Elementary!, Junior & Senior Choristers Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Couples Bibles Study (50+). Thursday: Thursday Bible Study, Endowment Committee Meeting, It's Elementary Volunteer Training Meeting, Narcotics Anonymous. Friday: Adult Choir Festival by the Sea. Saturday: Adult Choir Festival by the Sea.

SUPPER WITH SEVEN

It's time to sign up for our next Supper With Seven series. Supper With Seven groups will be made up of couples and singles who will get together for fellowship. The goal will be to have each group get together three times in a period from late February through May. The meal-sharing opportunities range from a traditional dinner at a member's home to backyard barbecues to meetings at the pizza parlor. It is up to each group to decide. The deadline to sign up for Supper With Seven is Monday, February 3.

To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Supper With Seven page (https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/supper-with-seven/).

Name(s): (Include both names if you are signing up as a couple.)
Phone:
Email Address:
Please check as many as apply:
I/We would be willing to host a first gathering of seven or so people.
I/We cannot host the first gathering, but would consider a subsequent one.
I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.



In Matthew 4:18, we find fishermen at their toil - casting and mending nets - not seemingly looking for a career change or a spiritual awakening or a revolution. But they made one and had one and joined one just the same. Matthew tells us that when called by Jesus, the fishermen immediately left their nets, their boat, and even their father and followed.

This call seems like a tall order for those fishermen. One that most people - then and now - would not be equipped to immediately accept while engaged in the mundane comings and goings of the daily routine. It could be that Jesus just caught them on a particularly bad day. Maybe the tides were wrong, and the haul was light. Maybe Jesus spoke to them in a language they recognized - "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Maybe, as fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James, and John had a greater willingness to cast their lot into the unknown than most.

For me, it seems that possibly all of this is true and maybe something more too. Henri Frédéric Amiel was a 19th century philosopher and poet. In his book, The Journal Intime, Amiel wrote of his struggle to reconcile his inner self with the practical demands of the outer world. In other words, he wrote about what it means to be human.

Amiel offers - "Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up your whole soil with the plowshare of self-examination, but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready for any seed the winds may bring, and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird; keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for the unknown God."

For those fishermen turned apostles the time was right, the message was right, and the messenger was right. However, they themselves had to be able to receive the message. They had to open their hearts and minds to the mystery of a new direction, and in this instance, as is often the case, an unsettling new direction.

In today's world with its constant ping and ring and clamor for your attention, what place do you hold in your heart for what mysteries the winds may bring?

It is a challenge for sure to think about the new directions you may be headed. It is better that you project the present and paint the future with the familiar than to confront the mystery of the unknown. But we know that exercise is folly.

Let us then be like those fishermen. Let us live with open hearts and minds for the world around us and have faith in God's calls to action amidst the mystery of it all.

Scott Clark