

# the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIII | August 9, 2020 | No. 13

From the Pews, Corey Sanders

"Corey, we need a timeout!" These aren't the words you want to hear from your assistant coach in the championship game of church league basketball...

One of the lessons I learned last year was church basketball is far more competitive than it should be. As a former athlete, I can attest church basketball creates a rare breed of competitiveness. This probably explains why I loved coaching it a little too much! When a group of 9th grade boys asked me and David Hanor to coach the WPC team, little did we know we would need nothing short of a miracle to get our team into the championship.

After watching our first practice, it was evident we lacked some of the fundamentals of winning basketball. We were undersized, not great ball handlers, and getting the ball through the hoop was a bit of challenge. What we didn't lack were numbers and hustle. So what did we do? We asked our team to believe in our strategy, and if they did, we could be competitive.

Not many teams full court press and run trap defenses for entire basketball games. It's exhausting. However, when you have 15 players, you find strength in numbers. We deployed "hockey lines" and ran a new team of five every few minutes. We created chaos. We forced turnovers. We made layups... and we won a lot of games.

Yet, halfway through the championship we needed a timeout. Our guys were tested by a team that was older, bigger, faster and it was clear we were confused and on the precipice of defeat. David and I were frustrated.

In our scripture from Mark, we find the disciples in a similar position. They are confused after Jesus is tested by the Pharisees and then are warned by Jesus about the corruptness of the Pharisees and Herod. Instead of listening and remembering who Jesus is, they worry about not having enough bread (Jesus had just performed the miracle that fed 5,000 people with 5 loaves). Jesus calls the disciples out for their clouded judgement and their failure to remember. In Isaiah's passage, we find a hymn of praise calling us to remember and celebrate who God is. A call to remember, to trust, and rejoice in the comfort of God's grace and salvation.

Though not quite like Jesus in the boat with his disciples, I asked our players to do something similar during that timeout. I told them to stop focusing on the score, on being outmatched, on poor officiating. Instead I asked them to remember who we were and how we got there. All of the times we were underdogs and found ways to win. Needless to say, the trophy felt good hoisted in the air after the buzzer sounded. The Thunder Dolphins were "D-League" champions with a story likened to that of Rudy, Miracle on Ice, Remember the Titans. Or at least we like to remember it that way!

Whether it is overly competitive, "D" division church basketball leagues or Jesus speaking to his disciples, I think the message is clear. We don't always need a sign to understand and remember who we are...especially in our faith. Jesus simply asks us to remember and trust in him and his goodness. Look for those reminders and I assure you God's love and grace will be found. Rejoice and be glad in it.



## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 9, 2020 | online, 10:00a | Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



### Preparation for Worship

The awareness of being part of the communion of saints makes our hearts as wide as the world.

The love with which we love is not just our love;  
it is the love of Jesus and his saints living in us.

When the Spirit of Jesus lives in our hearts,  
all who have lived their lives in that Spirit live there too.

Our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents;  
our teachers and their teachers; our pastors and their pastors;  
our spiritual guides and theirs – all the holy men and women who form that  
long line of love through history – are part of our hearts,  
where the Spirit of Jesus chooses to dwell.

The communion of saints is not just a network of connections  
between people. It is first and foremost the community of our hearts.

– Henri Nouwen

### Gathering and Preparing for God's Word

Prelude *Prelude and Fugue in F Major* J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *We Are Not Alone* Choplin

Call to Worship  
From north and south,  
east and west -  
In the Spirit, we are bound together.

From couches and cars,  
porches and kitchen tables -  
In the Spirit, we are bound together.

From places of brokenness and despair,  
moments of joy and the mundane -  
In the Spirit, we are bound together.

From forgetfulness and misunderstanding,  
deep remembrance and clarity -  
God binds us together and we are the Church!

Hymn #396 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* HOLY MANNA  
**See hymn sheet.**

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon  
God of grace beyond and the mercy that we need,  
Hear, we pray, our honest pleas this day -  
When we ask for a sign, point us to what you are doing and have done.  
When we argue, call us back to the heart of your gospel.  
When we ask the wrong questions, lead us to the right ones.  
When we misunderstand, tell us again.

Forgive, we pray -  
The ways we fall short,  
the sin that makes a home inside our hearts,  
the sin that makes itself known in our actions,  
the ways we neglect your call to discipleship.  
Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Amen.

### Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination  
Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 12:1-6*  
Message for Children  
New Testament Lesson, *Mark 8:14-21*  
Sermon *"Hearts of Remembrance"*  
Anthem *Surely It Is God*

White

### Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith, *Excerpts from the Confession of 1967*

Wherever the church exists,  
its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed  
in society for the sake of mission in the world...

The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are,  
at work or play, in private or in the life of society.

Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship  
and theological reflection.

Their witness is the church's evangelism.

Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world.

The quality of their relation with other persons  
is the measure of the church's fidelity.

Prayer 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.**

Hymn #296 *Go in Grace and Make Disciples* WONDROUS LIGHT  
**See hymn sheet.**

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Now Thank We All Our God* Karg-Elertl

### Leading Worship this Morning

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *preaching*  
Leigh Stuckey, Lauren Slingerland, *liturgists*  
Corey Sanders, *lay reader*  
Nancy Smith, *organist*  
Emma Skelton, Morgan Key, Cooper Kemp, Douglas Culclasure,  
Madeleine Hopkins, Kate Edmondson, *vocalists*

## Brethren, We Have Met to Worship 396

1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.  
 2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo - ses' sis - ter aid - ed him.  
 3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?  
 4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?  
 Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?  
 Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?  
 Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.  
 Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.  
 Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!  
 Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.

Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
 Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.  
 Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.  
 Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12-13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.

TEXT: George Atkins, 1819, alt.  
 MUSIC: Columbian Harmony, 1825; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011  
 Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

HOLY MANNA  
 8.7.8.7.D

## 296 Go in Grace and Make Disciples

Capo 3: (D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A)  
 F C B<sup>b</sup> C F C

1 Go in grace and make dis - ci - ples. Bap - tize in God's  
 2 Go and fol - low Christ's ex - am - ple, not to van - quish,  
 3 Go in Pen - te - cos - tal spir - it, man - y tongues and

(Em7) (A) (D) (G) (D) (G)  
 Gm7 C F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>

ho - ly name. Tell of death and res - ur - rec - tion; Eas - ter's  
 but to heal. Mend the wounds of sin's di - vi - sions. Ser - vant  
 man - y gifts. Feed the hearts of hun - gry peo - ple. Spread the

(D) (Em) (A7) (D) (A) (D) (A) (D)  
 F Gm C7 F C F C F

vic - tory now pro - claim. Christ's com - mis - sion sends us forth  
 love to all re - veal. Roles and ranks shall be re - versed;  
 gos - pel that up - lifts. Till the day of Christ's re - turn,

(B) (Em) (B) (E) (A) (D)  
 D Gm D G C F

to the na - tions of the earth. Go in grace and  
 jus - tice flow for all who thirst. Go and fol - low  
 as dis - ci - ples, teach and learn. Go in Pen - te -

(G) (D) (G) (Em) (D) (A7) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> Gm F C7 F

make dis - ci - ples, mid - wives for the world's re - birth.  
 Christ's ex - am - ple. Forge a world of last made first.  
 cos - tal spir - it: let God's flame of wit - ness burn.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text based on Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) emphasizes that engaging in mission according to the model of Christ's life and ministry inspires service rather than conquest. The gospel message is a gift of life and hope made known in healing, justice, and peace.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2001  
 MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1999  
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 Music © 1999 William P. Rowan (adm. GIA Publications, Inc.)

WONDROUS LIGHT  
 8.7.8.7.7.8.7