



Preparation for **Worship**

O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall,
to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever.

Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help;
in all our uncertainties your guidance;
in all our dangers your protection;
and in all our sorrows your peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Augustine of Hippo

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Prelude *Thine Is the Glory* arr. Whitworth

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship from *Psalm 34*

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
I sought the Lord, and God answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to God, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in God.
Let us worship God!

Hymn #509 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* HOLY MANNA

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Loving and everlasting God, we know that we have followed you
with flimsy faith and with hearts full of fear.
Our patience runs out too quickly these days.
We are anxious for our loved ones, worried about the future,
and we fall back easily on the idol of control.
Forgive us, and remove our sin from our souls.
Help us to trust in your generous hands,
even when we feel like we are bereft of what we need.
Help us to trust the depth of your imagination,
so that our insecurities would not overwhelm us.
Fill us with your grace,
so that our lives would be centered in your promises and your peace.
Amen.

Anthem *Taste and See* Moore

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination
Gospel Lesson, *John 6:30-35*
Old Testament Lesson, *Exodus 16:1-3, 9-15*
Sermon "What Is It?"

Responding to **God's Word**

Affirmation of Faith, *The Nicene Creed*
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Morning Prayers

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 #39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* FAITHFULNESS

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Postlude on Jesus Shall Reign* arr. Hustad

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*
Traci Beasley, *lay reader*
Vance Jenkins, *guest organist*
Judy McKenney, Emily Sweezey, Hunter Ditsch, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*

Prayer Concerns and Joys During the Pandemic

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Scott Calzada Loveless to Ryan & Grace Loveless - March 9
- Eleanor Grace Serieno to Doug and Jenna Serieno - March 12
- Kendall Robin & Riley Patricia to Lee & Tiffany Bracket - March 30
- Anna Elizabeth to Will & Jennifer McDavid - April 8
- Nora Jeanne to Jacob & Jade Fountain - April 22
- Mary Margaret to Rembert & Lauren Moore - May 18
- Haywood Brigham to Gene & Elizabeth Campbell - May 18
- Sadie Hetrick to Clay & Meagan Smoak - June 10
- Charles Douglass to Nathan Stock & Kate Taber - June 25
- Sheppard Love to David & Anna Hanor - July 7
- Maddox Charles & Benjamin Richard to Brad & Hannah Morris - July 13
- Tate Huffman Metherell to Darah Huffman & Elizabeth Metherell - August 15

MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

- Tom Stewart (2/9/1954 - 4/26/2020)
- Rupert Huse (9/10/1935 - 5/2/2020)
- Nancy Barnwell (8/17/1925 - 5/13/2020)
- Dot Marshall (10/19/1925 - 7/12/2020)
- Carlisle Rogers (1/27/1932 - 7/31/2020)

WE EXTEND SINCERE SYMPATHY

on the death of a parent...

- Jacqui Foster on the death of her father, John Luedtke - March 30
- Kelly Heegard on the death of his father, David Heegard - May 10
- Bob Stewart on the death of his mother, Celsie Stewart - June 20
- Chris Ballard on the death of his mother, Grace Ballard - June 26
- Bill Allen on the death of his father, William Allen, Sr. - August 6

2019-2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS JOINS

On Sunday, August 16, thirty of our rising 10th graders were confirmed into the life of Westminster Presbyterian Church. This occurred at our monthly Stated Zoom Session meeting. These students had to press pause in March when they were halfway through Confirmation. They finished up virtually this summer by watching teaching videos, completing assignments, connecting via Zoom, communicating with their mentors, and writing and video recording their individual faith statements. These faith statements were compiled into one video that the Session was able to view in advance of Sunday's meeting. At the Zoom meeting they answered the membership questions and were welcomed into membership. We rejoice with and congratulate these resilient and faithful young people!

Cameron Barnhardt	Hines Johnson
Owen Clark	Ellison Mallico
Teddy Cobb	Dent McGee
William Dennis	Grant Moon
Witt Dickens	Molly Morgan
Logan Dodge	Andrew Morrow
Chloe Draganic	Ella Newton
Cara DuBose	Marleigh O'Hanlan
Isaac Dunlaevy	Trey Sanders
Grant Eades	Rylie Shaw
Thomas Edmondson	Rush Sheppard
Gage Gettys	Mary Lawrence Tiller
Sarah Grace Givens	Bruce Usher
Ellie Greer	Grayson White
Alex Gillespie	Brice Woodhouse

Gathering Notes

OUTDOOR PRAYER SERVICE BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 13th

Our 9am outdoor Sunday morning prayer service will begin on September 13th in the Green Lot. Up to 50 WPC members may sign up to attend. If you sign up for one week, please do not sign up for the next week, so that others can participate. No childcare will be provided. Please bring your own chair. Masks and social distancing will be the rule! We hope this time together will allow us to see one another in person, in a safe way, while worshipping God and growing together in our faith. Stay tuned for sign up information.

OPEN SANCTUARY

Starting September 14, our sanctuary will be open for individual prayer and reflection. Specific dates/times will be announced soon. WPC members will need to sign up ahead of time to reserve a spot. Please stay on the lookout for more information.

Education at WPC

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY ON
SUNDAY MORNINGS THIS FALL!

Beginning September 13, you are invited to participate in a Zoom Bible study at 10am on Sunday mornings, led by Ben and other members of the pastoral staff! The Zoom information will be sent the preceding Friday. We will take a look at the texts that are being used in that particular Sunday's worship service. Please join us!

Programs at WPC

FALL MUSIC GATHERINGS

The Music Ministry at Westminster will certainly be present this fall, exploring new ways to faithfully respond to God's presence through music. Keep watch for information for adults, children, and even the smallest musicians of Westminster. Regular schedules include Wednesday Online Music Gatherings (adults) Ukulele Club (children 1-5) and Cherub Choir and First Steps registration. Visit Wpc-online/music for more information.

IT'S ELEMENTARY

Registration is open now for It's Elementary for fall 2020! Activities for each age group, including Preschoolers, to explore the books of the Bible through stories, games and crafts will be provided to use at home. There will also be fellowship opportunities! Sign up today at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/its-elementary-tweens-sign-up>.

CALLING ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS!

Register to be a part of a Shepherd Group this fall. These will meet on Sunday nights. - <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/youth-group-registration/>.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00 pm. Weather permitting, we will meet in the Green Lot (bring your own chair). In case of rain, we will hold the session on GoToMeeting. New people are always welcome. This month we will discuss [There There by Tommy Orange](#). Ingrid Erwin will lead this month's discussion. Send Ellen Stevenson (ellens7377@gmail.com) an email if you want the log in information to join the meeting.

THE HARBINGER

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we have been able to support pandemic relief work undertaken by a number of organizations including:

- The Carolina High School Carolina Closet
- United Ministries Emergency Assistance Food Bank
- Harvest Hope Food Bank
- The Hispanic Alliance
- The Homeless Period Project
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Safe Harbor

We have also continued to fulfill our pledges to local, national, and international organizations through the Witness & Service budget.

Mission at WPC

CAROLINA CLOSET FOOD
& GOODS DRIVE

Carolina High School, located just off of White Horse Road, has a diverse student population, many of whom live under the poverty line. As our backyard neighbors, we are proud to have partnered with them for Hands on Greenville Day in 2018 and 2019 and for the 2017-2018 Carolina Westminster Connection. COVID-19 has brought profound challenges to the many families who rely on Carolina for food and basic necessities, and as students head back members of the CHS community find themselves in particular need.

The "Carolina Closet," run by teachers and students, provides clothing, supplies, and non-perishable food to any student in need. After a spring of heavy use, Carolina's supplies are critically low. The most popular food items are macaroni and cheese, small boxes of cereal, grits, oatmeal, hamburger helper, ravioli, fruit cups, pudding cups, crackers, cookies, canned vegetables, ramen noodles, canned chicken, and canned tuna.

Westminster will accept donations ordered via the Amazon Wish List or dropped off at the church office Monday - Friday, 9a-4:30p until Monday, September 14. If you order via the wish list, make sure to designate "Westminster Pres c/o Carolina Closet's Gift Registry Address" as your shipping address. Thank you for your generosity!

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Ashley Brown:

I have a stack of Hebrew cards piled up on my desk at Austin Seminary. So, while not an expert in Hebrew, I am proudly able to read two words; manna and shalom. The latter is a result of a college tattoo session during my esteemed tenure at the University of South Carolina.

Manna means "What is it?" in Hebrew. Did you know that? I absolutely, one hundred percent did not. Classes start in September, thank you very much.

So.. what could manna really be? Is it really bread from the heavens? Can God rain down some sourdough, please? Nerd out with me for a second...

Scientists and religious scholars have long wondered a theory that manna is actually a natural phenomenon that occurs in Middle Eastern deserts. A beetle, named now the Trehala Manna's sweet and nutrient-rich cocoon is a likely candidate. The crystalline carbohydrate named "trehalose" found in the cocoon is used to save lives in modern medicine. Trehalose is known for its ability to enable species to survive extreme drought and dehydration and complete freezing. It also serves as an energy source. It's like a power bar, never-ending water fountain and warm wool blanket all rolled into one, depending on what is needed for the organism.

Among many, many other uses in medicine, trehalose is responsible for saving millions of lives each year in impoverished Third World countries to keep vaccines usable where refrigeration is limited. Additionally, trehalose is the secret ingredient of the "resurrection plant"- which can survive months of complete drought. "Trehalose has remarkable preserving power and is produced by creatures that lie dormant under drought conditions. Some plants can lose over 95 percent of their water content and still survive, thanks to the trehalose in their cells," says John Emsley, a science writer at The Independent.

Modernly, manna as a metaphor can serve as the nourishment God provided us during our times of spiritual drought and starvation. It's cool to acknowledge the crossroads where pain and glory intersect, and to witness the provisions God hooked us up. Although that reflection typically for myself comes after the fact. Manna can be the light in the darkness, the cool scar after the deep cut, or the food pantry at the local shelter when we're unemployed. It can be the nice police officer smiling at us, as they write us our speeding tickets and remind us to slow down for the safety of others.

Manna is the nourishment we need, not the nourishment we desire. I mean, it's not a choice piece of prime rib or anything. It's what is the bare minimum of what we need in order to fulfill our Earthly responsibilities as God's children. Or maybe... it's just a beetle's old cocoon in the desert.