



Preparation for **Worship**

Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises.
 Where we have been weak, grant us your strength;
 where we have been confused, grant us your guidance;
 where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort;
 where we have been dead, grant us your life.
 Apart from you, O Lord, we are nothing.
 In and with you, we can do all things. Amen.

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

Prelude *O How He Loves You and Me* arr. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship from *Psalm 27:1,3,13-14*

The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?
 The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
 though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
 Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
 wait for the Lord!
 Let us worship God!

Hymn #664 *Morning Has Broken* BUNESSAN

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Good and gracious God, we know that our hearts have been quick
 to judge others, but slow to follow you.
 We have been more fearful than faithful.
 We have been blind to our own failures,
 while taking your grace for granted.
 We are an insecure people, eager to bow down to the idols of wealth
 and status, always seeking others' approval.
 Forgive us, and cleanse our hearts with your Holy Spirit.
 Grant us courage to love in new ways, faith to travel where you take us,
 and hope to share with friend and stranger alike.
 In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination
 Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 14:22-27*
 Old Testament Lesson, *Ruth 1:1-18*
 Sermon "Turning Point"
 Anthem *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Lojeski

Responding to **God's Word**

Affirmation of Faith, *From The Confession of 1967*

Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task
 to be pursued with courage.
 The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of
 Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.
 His human life involves the church in the common life of all people.
 His service to men and women commits the church to work
 for every form of human well-being.
 His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering
 so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons
 in every kind of need.

Prayers 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 #436 *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* O QUANTA QUALIA

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* arr. Limbaugh

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
 Amos Workman, *liturgist*
 Charlie LeGrand, *lay reader*
 Nancy Smith, *organist*
 Kathryn Knauer, Diana Dailey, Derek Pitman, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate **We Remember in Prayer**

The birth of a son, Robert Heyward
 Felt, to Tyler & Mary Knight Felt in
 Greenville on 8/17/2020.

Rick Carpenter • (6/23/1945 - 8/26/2020)
 and
 The family of Rick Carpenter

Charles Little on the death of
 his mother, Lucy Pate Little, in
 Wadesboro, NC - 8/31/2020

OPEN MINDS • Education@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!

BAPTISM CLASS:

If you would like to have your child
 baptized at Westminster, we are
 resuming our baptism classes via
 Zoom! Our next class is Sunday,
 September 13, at 3p. Please notify
 the church office if you would like
 to attend, and we will be glad to
 send you the Zoom information for
 next Sunday's class.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

**OUTDOOR PRAYER SERVICE BEGINS
 SEPTEMBER 13th, 9am & 11:15am**

Our outdoor Sunday morning prayer
 service will begin on September 13th
 in the Green Lot at 9am & 11:15am. Up
 to 50 WPC members may sign up
 to attend each service. 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
 signup 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.

**PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS
IN THE CARIBBEAN**

In the past days communities in the Dominican Republic and Cuba have been devastated by Hurricane Laura. The Dominican Republic, a country with whom we have had a long shared history, was hit particularly hard. On Thursday, August 27, Witness and Service voted to send funds to Foundation for Peace, an on-the-ground relief and medical organization, to aid in relief efforts. Westminster's contribution, made possible by your faithful pledges, will ensure that Dominicans in Barahona, Port au Plata, and Santo Domingo receive the food, shelter, care, and provisions they need in the days following the storm. Witness & Service also allocated funds for relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for relief in Cuba and the Caribbean. We hope that you will continue to hold the people of the Caribbean and the Gulf Coast of the United States in your prayers, particularly the mission partners and communities with whom we have worked in the past.

WELCOMING • New Members@WPC

During last Sunday's Session meeting, we welcomed the following new members into our fellowship:

- Jay & Noel-Carol Bitner joined by transfer from Palms Presbyterian, Jacksonville Beach, FL.
- Will & Stacy Buice. Will joined by transfer from St. John's United Methodist, Anderson. Stacy joined by transfer from Good Shepherd Lutheran, Columbia, SC. They have a daughter, Thiel (2 mos.).
- Winston & Pierce Hathaway. Winston joined by reaffirmation of faith and Pierce will join by profession of faith at her baptism. They have two sons, Emerson (2) and Fielding (8 mos.).
- Keith & Lindsay Jones joined by transfer from Buncombe Street

**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!

United Methodist, Greenville. They have a daughter, Leenie (7) and a son, Heaton (5).

- Thomas & Tifani Mercado joined by reaffirmation of faith.
- Dan & Sarah Matthews joined by transfer from Grace & Peace Presbyterian, Greenville. They have a son, Everett (3).
- Hunter & Erin Murphy joined by transfer from Fourth Presbyterian, Greenville. They have two daughters, Mae (4) and Lila (6 mos.).
- David & Erin Saari joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have a son, Joseph (1).
- Chase & Alex Turner. Chase joined by reaffirmation of faith. Alex joined by transfer from Easley Presbyterian, Easley. They have a daughter, Mary Elizabeth (11 mos.).

THE HARBINGER
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OPEN MINDS • Programs@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/>.

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Phil Gehman:

This week's Scripture passages focus on God's faithfulness in the midst of the storms of life. Both stories have their counterintuitive aspects. That is to say, they contain unanticipated surprises.

In the Old Testament story, Naomi, her husband, Elimelech, and their sons are in a foreign country, Moab, seeking relief from the famine in their homeland of Judah. Their sons marry Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. A perfect storm strikes Naomi: first her husband dies, and then, over a period of years, her sons also die. Totally bereft of all that gives her life meaning, she decides to return home to Bethlehem. Her daughters-in-law wish to accompany her. She encourages them to remain in their home country; she has nothing to offer the new widows. But surprise, surprise: Ruth insists on going back to Judah with Naomi.

The New Testament story contains its own surprise. From the beginning, Jesus calls the disciples to follow him and usually wants them to stick close by. But this time, Jesus instructs them to leave him on shore and to cross the Sea of Galilee on their own. But difficulties arise as a result of their willingness to comply with his instructions. They encounter a ferocious storm. Worst of all, Jesus isn't there to rescue them.

This story stands in sharp contrast with an idea abroad in certain circles of contemporary Christian practice. There is among us a certain sentimental, transactional understanding of discipleship: Be good to God and God will in turn be good to you. Stay close to God and God is certain to protect you from harm, make you prosperous, and guarantee smooth sailing. It almost seems that Christians can control God's response to them and their place in the world by their willingness to "stay close."

But both stories remind us of the painful truth that discipleship is no insurance policy against the storms of danger, fear, and death. Yet they also remind us that God has the last word. Who could have guessed that Ruth, this widow from another country, would be blessed to be an ancestor of Jesus? And who could have guessed that the disciples, if they had been unwilling to embark in the boat, would have missed an opportunity to see Jesus revealed in a new, more glorious light?

And so we, too, are called to go forward in the midst of the storms of life, confident that we do not have the last word. We can abound in hope even in the worst of times. We can dare to become engaged in "good trouble," joining Jesus among the oppressed, the disadvantaged, the condemned, and the despairing, proclaiming by word and deed his Good News to all.

"Take heart, it is I; have no fear."