



Preparation for **Worship**

You who live secure / In your warm houses / Who return at evening to find / Hot food and friendly faces: / Consider whether this is a man, / Who labors in the mud / Who knows no peace / Who fights for a crust of bread / Who dies at a yes or a no. / Consider whether this is a woman, / Without hair or name / With no more strength to remember / Eyes empty and womb cold / As a frog in winter. / Consider that this has been: / I commend these words to you. / Engrave them on your hearts / When you are in your house, when you walk on your way, / When you go to bed, when you rise. / Repeat them to your children. / Or may your house crumble, / Disease render you powerless, / Your offspring avert their faces from you.  
— Shemà, Primo Levi (January 10, 1946)\*

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

Prelude *I Need Thee Every Hour* arr. Lowry

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your might.  
Keep these words in your heart.  
Bind them as a sign on your hand,  
fix them as an emblem on your forehead,  
and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.  
Let us worship God.

The Shema *Hear, O Israel* arr. Townend

Hymn #63 *The Lord Is God* AZMON

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

God of mercy:  
We seek you in familiarity and despair when you cannot be found.  
Believing you absent and eager to secure ourselves,  
we cling to ephemera that only temporarily satisfies  
and worship at altars of our own making.  
We search for meaning in politicians, philosophies, and markets,  
and are divided against ourselves.  
Especially now, turn us from the distractions of the world and toward  
the mountain of your revelation.  
Grant us the faithfulness to find you where you lead.  
Cast out any thing that would distract us from you  
and return us to your peace. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism  
Pierce LeViner Hathaway  
Emerson Winston Hathaway  
Fielding Pierce Hathaway

Presentation  
Questions  
Question to the Congregation  
Thanksgiving over the Water  
Baptism  
Prayer

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination  
First Reading, *Isaiah 45:5-12, 18*  
Second Reading, *Exodus 32:1-10*  
Sermon *"Nothing Gold Can Stay"*  
Anthem *Zion's Walls* Kopenen

Responding to **God's Word**

Affirmation of Faith, *The Scots Confession, 3.01*  
We confess and acknowledge one God alone,  
to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve,  
whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust.  
Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent,  
invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.  
By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth,  
visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being,  
and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such  
end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed,  
and to the manifestation of his own glory.

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 #357 *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLANGLOFFAN

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Postlude on HYFRYDOL* Wallace

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*  
Ben Dorr, *liturgist*  
Ginny Wolfe, *lay reader*  
Sarah Beasley, *sponsor*  
Nancy Smith, *organist*  
Kathryn Knauer, Diana Dailey, Derek Pitman, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*

Worship Notes:

Throughout today's worship you will hear the phrase:  
*"Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One."*

Known as the "Shemà" ("Hear" in Hebrew), it is the first word of the most central prayer in Judaism, taken directly from Deuteronomy 6:5-9.

Jesus knew and recited the prayer throughout his ministry.

In today's Preparation for Worship, Primo Levi, a prominent 20th century intellectual and Holocaust survivor, reflects on the Shemà in the context of both bounty and tragedy. Originally titled "Psalm," the poem was written as the Nuremberg trials were beginning. The urgency of the poem reflects the power of the original scripture and encourages believers of all times and places to cling to God alone.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISMS

This morning, we welcome into our fellowship by profession of faith and baptism:

- Pierce LeViner Hathaway and her sons, Emerson Winston Hathaway and Fielding Pierce Hathaway.  
Pierce is married to WPC member, Winston Hathaway, father of Fielding and Emerson.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

OUTDOOR PRAYER SERVICE CONTINUES  
SEPTEMBER 20th, 9am & 11:15am

Our outdoor Sunday morning prayer services will be 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. Sign up at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/outdoor-prayer-services/>.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

The birth of a daughter, Autumn James LaBoone to Coulter LaBoone & Carolina Raycroft in Greenville on 9/11/2020.

We Remember in Prayer

Jack Runion • (4/6/1937 - 9/14/2020)  
and  
The family of Jack Runion

OPEN SANCTUARY

Our sanctuary is open for individual prayer and reflection on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (9a-1p). WPC members will need to sign up ahead of time at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/prayer-in-the-sanctuary-at-wpc/>.

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.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY ON  
SUNDAY MORNINGS THIS FALL!

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 Thursday in the weekly newsletter and each Friday with the weekly emailed Harbinger. We will take a look at the texts that are being used in that particular Sunday's worship service. Please join us!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

It's that time of year again when we are looking for volunteers to write a short devotional to be included in the 2020 Advent Devotions series. Email Joanne Sweeny (swejoa38@gmail.com) if you would be willing to help with this. Thank you.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY:

On Sunday, October 4th, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper in our online worship service. When you prepare for worship that Sunday, please have bread and grape juice available and ready as you watch the service so that you can take the elements of communion at the appropriate time.

MEN OF THE CHURCH!

The Fall Men's Mission Trip to Camp Thornwell is ON! We will be up at the camp in northern Pickens County on Wednesday, October 7-Sunday, October 11. Overnight indoor accommodations will be limited for Covid reasons so sign ups to reserve beds are required. Camping onsite is an option. All food will be provided. We will be starting construction of a cabin structure plus the ever present landscaping, cleaning and odd jobs. Something for everyone and all man hours will be put to good use whether you come up for a day trip or for one or more nights. The kids at Thornwell have spent a tremendous amount of time at the camp this summer and are appreciative of all of the work we have done! Contact Jeff Reynolds (jrreynolds@yahoo.com) with questions and to sign up.

THE HARBINGER

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OPEN HEARTS • 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

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.

the  
**HARBINGER**  
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Brian Donlan:

*“For this is what the Lord says –  
he who created the heavens, he is God;  
he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it;  
he did not create it to be empty,  
but formed it to be inhabited—  
he says: I am the Lord, and there is no other.”*

Isaiah 45:18

This reminds us that God is there for us, whatever problems we have. He is the one we should turn to in times of need. During the pandemic we've all had to adapt to a new way of living. There is more uncertainty and a feeling of being out of control. Some of us have been more affected than others, but all of us have been impacted in some way. However, the one constant through it all is God. I find it comforting to be able to turn to God for strength, even if I falter in my daily acknowledgment of him. His support doesn't mean that I won't be without challenge, without grief or without sadness, but I will be comforted and learn through those trials. And so goes the trial of this pandemic but my faith is what gives me hope that we'll emerge on the other side stronger, more connected with God.