



Preparation for **Worship**

O my God, you are hope.

You take the bonds of death and break them into pieces of life.
The demons of the night cower and hide from the brilliance of your presence.
You alone can banish the night and create the sweet stream of morning's light.

There is none who can stop you,
for you are the God of light and the light of my soul.

Ann Weems, *Lament Psalm Sixteen*

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

Prelude *O Thou of God the Father* Buxtehude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship From Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon--
there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.
How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?
If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!
Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

Hymn #687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

Holy God, we have overestimated our strength.
We pretend that our weakness can be hidden,
when it is the very place where you make your grace known.
We have imagined our lives as competent and compassionate,
ignoring our own selfishness,
refusing to be honest about the messes that we make.
Forgive us for speaking words that have wounded others,
for taking action that has hurt others,
and for gratifying our hearts with excesses we do not need.
Turn us into your new creation, gracious Lord.
Give us the courage to carry Christ's cross,
trusting that your Love will be made known along His path. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism Hazel Margaret Prayer

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination
Epistle Lesson, Romans 8:22-27
Hymn *A River Flows Through Babylon* TICE/COLON
Psalm 137
Old Testament Lesson, *Lamentations 3:14-24*
Sermon "The Lost Octaves"
Anthem *Be Still My Soul* arr. Sorenson

Responding to **God's Word**

Affirmation of Faith, *The Apostles' Creed*
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 #543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* GREEN TYLER

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *We Have Heard the Joyful Sound* arr. Phillips

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*
Lauren Hood, *lay reader*
Mae Todd Mullins, *sponsor*
Nancy Smith, *organist*
Emily Sweezey, Judy McKenney, Kelly Kemp,
Hunter Ditsch, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*
Hunter Ditsch, *saxophone*

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Hazel Margaret Praytor, daughter of Gram & Ashley Praytor.

Today we welcome Lauren Hood as our lay reader. Lauren began work on September 8th as Westminster's new Associate Director of Youth Ministry. She works alongside and under the supervision of Mary Kathleen Duncan. Originally from Columbia, Lauren moved to Greenville to attend Furman University and graduated in 2019 with degrees in Religion and Educational Studies. Things are already off to a great start in our youth programs this fall with Lauren's help and she looks forward to meeting more members of the WPC family of faith over the coming months!

We Remember in Prayer

Linda Baker on the death of her mother, Irene Raymond, in Palo Alto, CA - 9/5/2020.

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](https://wpc-online.org/music) for more information.

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.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@

WPC

OUTDOOR PRAYER SERVICE CONTINUES
SEPTEMBER 27th, 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. 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/>.

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/>.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY:

Next 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.

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>.

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 (rjreynocu@yahoo.com) with questions and to sign up.

**WPC DRIVE SEASON
BENEFITING SERENITY PLACE**

In this time of critical need, we are excited to expand our “Drive Season” initiative to offer monthly food and goods drives to benefit our mission partners across the city. The back to school Carolina Closet drive was a tremendous success, and students are already taking advantage of your generous donations.

This month we have partnered with Serenity Place, a residential treatment center for pregnant women, young mothers, and their preschool aged children. We have long supported Serenity Place through The Family Effect. As we head into the colder months, the team at Serenity Place is in particular need of items for their Welcome Baskets. Welcome Baskets are given to moms when they are admitted to Serenity Place with their children and to those who give birth while in the program.

Serenity Place’s greatest needs include newborn baby clothes, infant grooming kits with nail clippers, infant bathtubs, diapers, wipes, bottles (packs of three or more), baby wash, baby lotion, baby powder, wash cloths, bibs, socks, mittens, burp cloths, and crib sheets. Watch our Facebook page for a link to an Amazon wish list or bring items by Westminster for collection. The Serenity Place Drive will run through October 20th.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet in the Green lot on Tuesday October 6 at 6pm (NEW TIME: to be able to be done before it gets dark!). In case of rain, we will hold the session on GoToMeeting. Send Ellen Stevenson an email (ellens7377@gmail.com) if you want the log in information to join the meeting. Join us! New people are always welcome.

This month, Sherry Tate will lead our discussion of Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. From the bestselling author of Everything I Never Told You, a riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives.

**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!

**JUSTFAITH:
FAITH AND RACIAL EQUITY**

Zoom meetings of the JustFaith Group will begin Monday, October 5 at 6pm. For information previously registered class members may call Susan McLeod (787-6262) or Bill Holt (982-3368).

THE HARBINGER
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OPEN HEARTS • Service@WPC

2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

If you would like to nominate a member of WPC to serve on this year’s Nominating Committee, please submit the name of this individual to the church office by October 5. The Nominating Committee will be elected this year by a congregational vote via the website, at the end of October. The Session will approve the proposed slate of names for the Nominating Committee, which will consist of 4 Session members and 5 at-large members.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 27 - October 3, 2020

SUNDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Online Worship Service Green Lot Prayer Service
10:00 a.m.	Zoom Bible Study
11:15 a.m.	Online Worship Service Green Lot Prayer Service
5:00 p.m.	Middler Shepherd Groups in Green Lot
7:00 p.m.	Senior High Shepherd Groups in Green Lot
MONDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Prayer in the Sanctuary (thru 1pm)
WEDNESDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Prayer in the Sanctuary (thru 1pm)
3:00 p.m.	It’s Elementary Pop-Up in Green Lot
FRIDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Prayer in the Sanctuary (thru 1pm)
3:30 p.m.	WPCYG (Youth Group) Snow Cone Social in the Green Lot

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Jade Fountain:

About 5 months ago, I gave birth to my second child. As a pregnant woman, you spend a fair amount of time hoping for something unseen. Certainly, there is evidence of what is unseen - what with the growing stomach and swelling feet - but you spend an awful lot of time waiting for something, someone that you haven’t laid eyes on. You wait and you wait and you wait... with a certain amount of patience (or impatience). But while you are waiting, you don’t sit idly - you take action to prepare for what is unseen. You take your vitamins, you eat well, you try to stay healthy. You prepare a room, you gather supplies. There might be some fear for what is to come, but that fear doesn’t stop you from working while you wait.

I recently started following Morgan Harper Nichols on Instagram. She is a Christian musician, songwriter, artist, and writer. In 2017, she started writing letters for strangers as part of a goal to write a million poems to strangers in her lifetime. People can submit stories on her website, and she writes a letter of encouragement. These are also posted anonymously on social media.

Recently, she wrote, “Hope is knowing that you don’t have to have everything figured out for the future before you take action. You don’t have to be fearless before you sow seeds of faithfulness.”

Romans 8:22-25 tells us that the whole of creation is groaning together with the pains of childbirth, anxiously waiting for our redemption. *“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*

Taken together, the quote by Morgan Harper Nichols and our scripture reading for today remind me of my pregnancies and not for the obvious allusion to the pains of childbirth. The waiting, the hoping.

My point is this: we are presently witnessing the groanings of our world. We see pain and heartache and struggle, and we look to the skies for our redemption. Some of us are fearful and anxious. We pray. We hope. We wait. *“But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”* In your hope and in your patience, take action. Do not wait for your fear to subside. Let your hope lead you to do the work to alleviate the pain, the heartache, and the struggle of your neighbors. We don’t have to have everything figured out - sow his seeds while you wait.