

Preparation for **Worship**

[...] Called to a destiny more momentous / than any in all of Time, / she did not / quail, / only asked / a simple, 'How can this be?' / and gravely, courteously, / took to heart the angel's reply, / the astounding ministry she was offered: / to bear in her womb / Infinite weight and lightness; to carry / in hidden, finite / inwardness, / nine months of Eternity; to contain / in slender vase of being, / the / sum of power— / in narrow flesh, / the sum of light. / Then bring to birth, / push out into air, a Man-child / needing, like any other, / milk and love— / but who was God.

—excerpted from Denise Levertov, *Annunciation*

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

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prelude Fairest Lord Jesus arr. Page

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ Jesus, born of lowly estate, crucified by the state, friend of the poor, the meek, the grieving, is enthroned above every human authority and power, ruling over this and the world to come.

People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, serve the Lord with Gladness.

Leader: The Father has placed all authority at his wounded feet, appointed the one who wears a crown of thorns as the savior of the earth.

People: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, come into his courts with praise.

All: Let us worship the living King.

Prayer of Confession

God our King, we confess this day all the ways we have not lived as your people: we stand by watching while those in need struggle to survive; we cast our lots with those who worship earthly power and success; we scoff at those on the margins; we ignore the Word that calls us to radical living.

Forgive us, merciful God, for bowing before other thrones.

Transform our lives so that we may truly rejoice at the implications of your advent and kneel before your throne.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Philippians 2:4-8*

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 1:46-56*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Stir It Up!"

Response Heaven Shall Not Wait Bell

*Heaven shall not wait
for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:
Jesus is Lord;
he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.*

*Heaven shall not wait
for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord;
he has shown the master's privilege:
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.*

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. Amen.**

Charge and Benediction

Postlude Now Thank We All Our God Karg-Ellert

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Sophia Coulter Massingill*, daughter of Carter & Camden Massingill, in our 9a online worship.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

The marriage of Roger Gower and Martha Beaudrot on Saturday, November 14, at Westminster.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

On Sunday, November 29, our pre-recorded worship service will include communion. Please have bread and grape juice ready at home so that you can take the elements at the appropriate time. Our in-person worship on November 29 will not include communion.

WESTFESTVIII

New this year: a safe, socially-distanced take on your favorite Advent event featuring responsibly distanced live-music from Atlanta musician Sam Burchfield in the WPC Green Lot. To accommodate maximum fun and safety, we're hosting two 45-minute concerts on November 29, each capped at 100 participants. The Early Concert begins at 5:00p and will run under an hour. The Late Show will begin at 6:30. Guests will be asked to stay in their "pods" and remain masked when not eating or drinking (BYO). Don't forget blankets and lawn chairs, and don't you worry, you'll be able to holler at your friends and glow in the light of this year's WFVIII koozies and swag. To sign up and learn more, visit wpc-online.org.

OPEN SANCTUARY

Our sanctuary is open for individual prayer and reflection on Monday and Tuesday (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/>.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP FROM HOME ON SUNDAY MORNING?

Our pre-recorded service will continue to air on our website at 9am, and on our social media platforms. Our in-person worship service will air on our website via livestream at 11:15a. The Harbinger that you receive in the mail will be for our pre-recorded worship. If you would like the Harbinger for our 11:15am livestream worship, you may download it from our website at <https://wpc-online.org/sermon-archive>.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

There is still time to register for church basketball! You may register for a Westminster team at www.wpc-online/eventsregistration/athletics/youthbasketball. The registration deadline is Sunday, November 29.

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will next hike at Moonshine Falls on Saturday, December 5. Hike Leader: Kathryn Algary, 907-7291 or kaalgary@gmail.com.

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, November 17, we have received \$1,558,062 in pledges toward our 2021 budget goal of \$2,513,715.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

You are invited to participate in a Zoom Bible study at 10am on Sunday mornings led by Ben and Leigh! 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

Just Faith meets Mondays at 6p on ZOOM. For information, previously registered class members may call Susan McLeod (787-6262) or Bill Holt (982-3368).

FIRST STEPS MUSIC FOR 2-3 YR OLDS

Music this fall for the youngest voices at Westminster will be offered online, still as a part of the First Steps Music program. Register to receive access to on-demand links with Diana Daily that explore music and movement through simple songs and activities. For more information, contact Mark at mkemp@wpc-online.org or visit the events registration page under “connect” at wpc-online.org. Registration is free!

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 1 at 7pm. Verify location or type of meeting with Ellen Stevenson (ellens7377@gmail.com). This month, Ruth Johnston will lead our discussion of Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. Please join us! New attendees are always welcome.

WPC DRIVE SEASON BENEFITTING UNITED MINISTRIES

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 Serenity Place drive was a tremendous success. Young mothers and their children are already benefitting from the benevolences you offered.

This month, in celebration of their 50 years of service to the Greenville community, we have partnered with United Ministries. UM offers programs that serve and empower those in our community who are striving to achieve self-sufficiency. Programs include education and employment, crisis assistance, and services to those experiencing homelessness.

UM’s greatest non-perishable needs include canned meats and fruits, canned vegetables, grits, macaroni and cheese, dried beans, rice, ramen noodles, saltines, peanut butter, powdered milk, and cereal. They are also in need of items for individual hygiene: hotel-sized soap, shampoo, and lotion, small bottles of hand sanitizer, q-tips, standard sized spray deodorant, standard-size vaseline, hydrogen peroxide, and shaving cream, wash cloths, sunscreen, chapstick, and bug spray.

You are welcome to drop items by the church office or order directly from the Amazon Wish List (https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MNF6VPVU487F/ref=cm_go_nav_hz). Deadline for donations will be Tuesday, December 1.

THE HARBINGER
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ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The 2020 Daily Advent Devotionals will be delivered by email beginning Sunday, November 29. If you prefer to receive a paper copy, contact the church office at 232-2424. We invite you to take a moment out of your day to read and meditate on this daily devotion that will lead us through the Advent season.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 22-28, 2020

SUNDAY	
9:00 a.m.	In-Person Worship Service
	Zoom Education Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m.	Zoom Bible Study
11:15 a.m.	In-Person Worship Service
12:30 p.m.	Zoom Session Meeting to Welcome New Members
TUESDAY	
10:00 a.m.	PW Circle #5 in Green Lot
THURSDAY	
	Happy Thanksgiving!
	<i>Weekday School Closed</i>
	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
FRIDAY	
	<i>Weekday School Closed</i>
	<i>Church Office Closed</i>

the **HARBINGER**
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Marcella Frese:

Intro to Humbleness 101

Philippians 2:3-4 *“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”*

As paraphrased by Spock: “The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the one.”

Today’s scripture is the perfect teaching package. Paul’s text in Philippians 2:3-8 provides instruction followed by example. In six brief verses it summarizes the entire interaction of God with us earthlings and instructs us on the manner in which we earthlings should interact with our fellow earthlings. The king saw a need, set aside the crown, joined the throng, and created ever-expanding waves with his gentleness, kindness, and openness. Firm when needed, but always leading with compassion.

From one of my favorite classroom posters: “No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

God, make us loving, gentle, thoughtful, kind;
 Fill us with Thy Spirit, make us of Thy mind.
 Help us love each other, more and more each day,
 Help us follow Jesus, in the narrow way.
 Help us to remember, Thou art ever near;
 Teach us lovingkindness, tenderness and cheer.
 There is much sorrow, in this world below;
 God, make us loving, Thou hast loved us so.
 We would learn of Jesus, Help us here below,
 Follow in His footsteps, Who hath loved us so.

Hymn by Flora Kirkland, 1901.