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HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIII | FEBRUARY 7, 2021 | No. 39

From the Pews, Brian Donlan

“Even youths grow tired and weary. Even young men stumble and fall but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, like eagles y’all, like eagles y’all. They will walk and not grow faint.”

Not exactly how Isaiah wrote it, but if you are familiar with the movie “Remember the Titans” then you may recall this scene where these verses, Isaiah 40:30-31, are used as a football team trusts in the Lord to overcome difficulties and renew their strength together. That’s it for the movie commentary. Really, I just liked the idea of introducing the verses with some “y’alls” in it.

The verses, no matter the wording, are something I think most can relate to. At some point in our lives, and likely more than once, most of us will experience weariness. This pandemic alone has offered more than its share of confounding weariness. You may be left asking, “Why me? Why now?” There may be no answer to be found. No reason that makes sense. Yet we still have to move forward, but we can’t do it alone trying to rely on our own inner strength. It is through trust and faith in the Lord. “The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.” Isaiah 40:28. Regardless of the number of times we’ve denied asking the Lord for strength, He will always be there because he does not grow weary. He is a God of comfort and grace. And so while it is hard at times to see the way out, continuing to trust and turn to the Lord will provide the strength to move forward.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, February 7, 2021 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | 9a & 11:15a wpc-online.org



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Preparation for **Worship**

God of Stillness, help us to steady our souls. The uncertainty of the world, transitions, and the pandemic have made our minds and bodies frenetic and disconnected. Grant us the courage to be still that we would become so acquainted with silence that it would not bring anxiety but deep rest. Help us toward a habit of listening closely to our own interior worlds, believing that what stirs in us is worthy to be held and seen. As others insult and demean us or our attempt to make us question our dignity, let us be people capable of traveling into ourselves, and with you let us bear witness to our hopes, fears, and stories, learning to parse out lie from truth, and find our rest in You. Our souls will quiver no more.

Cole Arthur Riley

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

Prelude *"Amazing Grace"* arr. Wood

Welcome and Announcements

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

People: **And also with you.**

Minute for Mission Emma Shurley

Call to Worship

We gather to worship God, whose creative imagination never fails:

For the sake of the Father, we will search for the outcasts.

We gather to praise God, whose steadfast love never weakens:

For the sake of the Son, we will lift up all who have fallen.

We gather to offer our best to God, who walks with us through eternity:

For the sake of the Spirit, we will walk with the weary.

Hymn #53

"Oh God, Who Gives Us Life"

NOEL

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Ever-engaging God,

We confess that we forget.

We do not notice. We fail to carve out time and space.

We gloss over.

In this life, sometimes we are so busy that we run past the things you would have us see, missing opportunities to extend grace.

Many times, we are blinded by the blessings and privileges of our stations, causing us to overlook those in deep need.

We do not habitually seek you nor tune our ears to your voice.

Often, our desires for unity and peace rush past acknowledgement, necessary conversations, and reckonings of the heart.

Forgive us. Have mercy on us.

Help us to walk the hard paths with your guidance, and to be made new. Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

*Leo Davis Fackler
James McKissack Fackler
Grace Adelaide Fackler*

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Presentation

Questions to the Parents

Question to the Congregation

Thanksgiving over the Water

Baptism

Prayer

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *Isaiah 40:21-31*

Old Testament Lesson, *Mark 1:29-39*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Mere Grasshoppers”

Solo

“God Is Love”

Owens

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.**

Hymn #726

KELVINGROVE

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

arr. Hustad

LEADING WORSHIP

Mary Kathleen Duncan, preaching

Lauren Slingerland, liturgist

Laura Williams Sanders, sponsor

Davis Usher, lay reader

Nancy Smith, organist

Margaret Rowan, cellist

Murray Freedman, soloist

Judy McKenney, Emily Sweezey, Hunter Ditsch, vocalists

About Today's Liturgy

In the month of February, we intentionally welcome diverse voices in our written liturgy for Sunday morning worship. This week, the Prayer of Preparation is written by Cole Arthur Riley who is a writer, liturgist, and founder of Black Liturgies.

Returning to In-Person Worship

The Session has approved returning to in-person worship on Sunday, February 14, with one worship service at 11:15a. Our Covid-19 protocols will remain in place, with masks and distanced seating by household. Up to 100 may sign up for a service. Sign up will begin on Monday, February 8. We will continue to provide our recorded worship via our website and social media platforms for our members who need to worship from home.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Leo Davis Fackler, James McKissack Fackler, and Grace Adelaide Fackler*, children of Leo & Adelaide Fackler.

We Remember in Prayer

Leslie Leshar on the death of her father, Leonard Hartford, in Spartanburg, SC - 1/23/2021.

Susan Grier on the death of her father, David Guritz, in Atlanta, GA - 1/26/2021.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The Pastor's Zoom Bible Study resumes this Sunday, January 24, at 10 am and will run through early May. Leigh Stuckey will lead participants in engaging and provoking discussions based on the texts of the day. We hope you will join us.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 918 5587 5662

Passcode: 785672

JUSTFAITH: FAITH AND RACIAL HEALING

Zoom meetings have resumed and will continue through Monday, March 22 at 6p. For information, previously registered class members may call Susan McLeod (787-6262).

ZOOM CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us each Sunday for a Zoom Children's Sunday School at 10a.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 980 3425 3372

Passcode: 700049

ZOOM IT'S ELEMENTARY!

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday, February 10, to learn about the Gospel of Matthew, play games, and make crafts. See you there!

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 912 9081 0826

Passcode: 257026

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENT FAT SUNDAY COOKIE DECORATING

Bring your favorite mix, premade cookie, or baking skills to Zoom on Sunday, February 14, at 3pm. Lauren will share her recipe for sugar cookies and more about the season of Lent. Decorating supplies are available for pick up in the church office through February 12.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 7136 8834

Passcode: 812487

SHEPHERD GROUPS

All Youth are invited to register now for Spring Shepherd Groups via our church website. Even if you participated in the fall, we need you to register again. Groups will begin meeting on February 28 and all meetings will be outside in backyards or the Green Lot.

OPEN HEARTS • Mission@WPC

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

WPCYG will be collecting money and food items for the Souper Bowl of Caring this year and we invite church members of all ages to help us! You may send a check to the church any time before February 15th with the designation, "Souper Bowl of Caring." You may also use the Souper Bowl of Caring payment portal on our website to give electronically from 2/1-2/15. **AND** you can drop off food items at one of three locations on Sunday, February 7th from 2-5pm. Donations will benefit our community partners at United Ministries and Harvest Hope Food Bank this year.

Locations

- back loop of Westminster Weekday School on Westminster Drive
- far end of Camelot parking lot, closest to McAlister Square
- driveway between 211 E Park Ave and the attorney office next door

Food items needed:

- canned meats (chicken, tuna, stew, salmon)
- canned green beans, corn, peas, fruit, potatoes, pasta, soup, beans
- cereal, grits, oatmeal, peanut butter, rice, macaroni and cheese, powdered milk, saltines, Ramen noodle packets

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GIVING HEARTS • Financial Update@WPC

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, February 1, we have received \$2,326,671 in pledges toward our 2021 budget goal of \$2,513,715.

For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 7 - 13, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY after EPIPHANY

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|------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m. | Online Worship Service |
| 10:00 a.m. | Zoom Sunday Bible Study |
| | Zoom Children's Sunday School |
| 11:15 a.m. | Online Worship Service |
| 2:00 p.m. | Souper Bowl of Caring Collections (until 5p.m.) |
| 3:00 p.m. | Zoom New Elder Training Class |

TUESDAY

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| 12:00 p.m. | Zoom Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting |
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WEDNESDAY

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| 3:00 p.m. | Zoom It's Elementary! |
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THURSDAY

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| 12:00 p.m. | Zoom Finance Committee Meeting |
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FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Youth Winter Retreat

At the recommendation of the Covid-19 Task Force, indoor meetings at Westminster are not taking place at this time. Please see digital communications for online meeting information.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

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