



First Sunday in Lent

Preparation for **Worship**

To meditate on the psalms means first and foremost to speak the human words of each psalm to God...to lament, petition, give thanks, and to praise God day and night. John Calvin rightly called the Psalter “the anatomy of all the parts of the human soul.” What the meditation on the psalms requires, then, is the honest presentation of all the parts of our human soul before God...To present our very ordinary selves, our daily selves, to God, that is the advice of the Psalm.

Paul K.-K. Cho

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

Prelude “Ave Verum Corpus” Mozart

Welcome and Announcements

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

People: And also with you.

Call to Worship Psalm 36:7-9

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.
Let us worship God!

Hymn #81 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” AUSTRIAN HYMN

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

**Good and gracious God,
we know that our memories are selective and self-centered.
We pretend that we are self-made creatures,
forgetting our dependence on you for all that gives us life.
We have fed ourselves with the wrong food,
prizing possessions instead of people,
pouring energy into status, competition, and control.
Forgive us for our idolatrous ways, O Lord,
and plant us in your rich soil once again.
Help us to walk in faithful and courageous paths,
so that we would bear the fruit that Christ asks of us,
and become the love to which Christ beckons us. Amen.**

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Lesson, *Revelation 22:1-5*

The Psalter, *Psalms 1*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Two Paths”

Anthem “Rivers of Living Water” Marroli

Responding to **God's Word**

Affirmation of Faith The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Hymn #79 TEMPLE OF PEACE

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Postlude on an AUSTRIAN HYMN* Hustad

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Tiffany Williams, *lay reader*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Emily Swezey, Judy McKenney, Hunter Ditsch, Mark Kemp, *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, our Prayer of Preparation is a quote from Dr. Paul K.-K. Cho, an Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Returning to In-Person Worship

We have returned to in-person worship on Sundays with one worship service in the sanctuary 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. You may sign up through the church website. We will continue to provide our recorded worship via our website and social media platforms for our members who need to worship from home. Our 11:15a service will be livestreamed.

Outdoor Worship Service this Sunday, February 21

Westminster pastors and staff are excited to bring "a season of outdoor services" to the congregation in order to deepen engagement and to provide more opportunities to connect with one another and the faith we proclaim. Our first Green Lot service is this Sunday, February 21, at 3:00 p.m. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper together, join in singing, and reflect on God's word to us today. Registration is required and is limited to 100 worshippers. Masks should be worn throughout the service and distance maintained in order to guarantee safety. Don't worry! We will continue to stream a service of worship featuring hymnody and liturgy and offer Sanctuary services on Sunday mornings. Join us!

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

You may also give online at <https://wpc-online.org/give-today> and specify the appropriate offering for your donation.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

This Sunday, February 21, 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 will not include communion.

We Remember in Memoriam

Martha Richardson Blackwell • (3/10/1947 - 2/11/2021) and The family of Martha Blackwell "I am the resurrection and the life." - John 11:25

We Remember in Prayer

Sara Lindley on the death of her father, Richard Wayne Nokes, in Memphis, TN - 2/5/2021.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The Pastor's Zoom Bible Study is scheduled for Sunday mornings 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

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

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

The birth of a daughter, Lennon Gray Dailey-Mattison, to Diana Dailey & Libba Mattison in Greenville on 2/8/2021.

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).

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 2 at 7pm. Verify location or type of meeting with Ellen Stevenson (ellens7377@gmail.com). Buffie Taylor will lead the discussion of American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

THE HARBINGER

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Church Staff

Ben Dorr Pastor & Head of Staff bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey Associate Pastor lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan Associate Pastor mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland Associate Pastor lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Amos Workman Parish Associate aworkman@wpc-online.org

Mark Kemp Director of Music mkemp@wpc-online.org

Jennifer Dillard Volunteer Coordinator jdillard@wpc-online.org

Kathryn Knauer Children's Choir Coordinator kknauer@wpc-online.org

Lauren Hood Associate Director of Youth Ministry lh Hood@wpc-online.org

Nancy Smith Organist nsmith@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch Weekday School Director cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Sherri Owens Financial Secretary sherri@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little Office Manager michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley Secretary wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend Director of Nurseries alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips Building Supervisor sphillips@wpc-online.org

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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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 21 - 27, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

- 9:00 a.m. Online Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Zoom Sunday Bible Study Zoom Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class - Session 1
11:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
12:30 p.m. Stated Session Meeting
3:00 p.m. Outdoor Worship Service with communion

WEDNESDAY

- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Luncheon Group Meeting

the HARBINGER open minds open hearts

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The Season of Lent

During the season of Lent, our sermon series will focus on the Psalms. The Psalms provide a rich resource for our worship, not only because of their breadth and variety, but also because of how they may be used.

For example, the early church sang the Psalms (Ephesians 5:19), so we will do so in our recorded worship this season. Instead of hearing me read a particular Psalm as the text prior to the sermon, the Psalm for the day might be sung in one of a variety of styles, from traditional chants and refrains to solos or choral settings.

Part of the power of the Psalms is that they give voice to so many different emotions and responses within our lives of faith. As biblical scholar Bernhard Anderson writes, "we find people addressing God in various ways [in the Psalms] - complaint in situations of distress and perplexity, thanksgiving in moods of liberation and joy, and hymnic praise in times of rejoicing in the goodness and wonder of God's creation and providential care."

Our sermon series will address themes or threads that are common throughout the Psalms. While by no means an exhaustive list, these themes include being known by God, the faithfulness of God, life, grief, enemies, and how a particular Psalm is used in the New Testament.

I hope you will take the time to read the Psalms during the season of Lent. It is a good spiritual discipline, and one that will provide connection to our worship this season.

In Christ, Ben

