

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIII | APRIL 4, 2021 | No. 47A

From the Pews, Parks Workman

During holy week, my meditations often focus on the cross—the ultimate act of grace, love, and sacrifice by Jesus for the reconciliation of humanity with God. Yet the risen Jesus is the climax of human history—the victory of Jesus over even death. How do we react to the risen Jesus?

I can identify so well with the disciple Peter during the events leading to the cross. Peter is the well intentioned disciple who famously falls short, even at Jesus’ most critical hour—the disciple that falls asleep when Jesus needs him to keep watch—the disciple that “follows Jesus from a distance” and seeks the comforts of the secular world (the fire) when things get the hardest—the disciple that denies Jesus three times—the disciple that breaks down and weeps.

Yet Jesus knew Peter’s heart just as he knows all of our hearts. Shortly after the last supper, Jesus told his disciples they will all fall away. “For it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” Mark 14:27.

Jesus’ insight into the human condition is unparalleled. There is much scattering as the sheep seek to advance their own personal kingdoms. The wages of this scattering have manifested through addiction, racism, suffering, inequality, greed, depression, betrayal, war, poverty, hunger, social injustice . . . We are all seeking direction in a scattered world.

However, there is the Good News. Jesus follows with: “But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” Mark 14:28. The words of Jesus provide us the hope and the direction we need. The risen Jesus shepherds the scattered sheep.

Indeed, as we look for Jesus in the tomb of the cross, let us find the tomb empty just as Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Salome found it. Let us listen to the words of the young man in the white robe: “Don’t be alarmed . . . You are looking for Jesus . . . He has been raised; he is not here . . . go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’” Mark 16: 6-7.

How do we react to the risen Jesus? Let us seek the risen Jesus and find him. “For if . . . we were reconciled to him by the death of [Jesus], how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life!” Romans 5:10 (NIV).

Happy Easter!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, April 4, 2021 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | wpc-online.org



Easter Sunday

Preparation for **Worship**

Glorious Lord of life, by the resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him. Grant that we who celebrate with joy Christ's rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness. Let no shadow of the grave terrify us, and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you. We ask it all through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude

"This Joyful Eastertide"

Evans

Welcome and Announcements

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

People: And also with you.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Call to Worship

Leader: Glory to you, O God:

on this day you won victory over death,
raising Jesus from the grave
and giving us eternal life.

**People: Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation
you overcame death
and opened the gate to everlasting life.**

Leader: Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into truth.

People: Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever.

All: Let us worship God!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hymn #232

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave,
you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,
bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry,
and pass by those who mourn.
We are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,
and indifferent to calls for justice and peace.
We despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Help us to trust your power to change our lives
and make us new, that we may know the joy of life
abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson, *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

Gospel Lesson, *Mark 16:1-8*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“What’s Required for Easter?”

Anthem

“Christ is Risen, Alleluia!”

Chepponis

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hymn #238	“Thine Is the Glory”	JUDAS MACCABEUS
Charge and Benediction		
Choral Response	“Hallelujah” from <i>Messiah</i>	Handel
Postlude	Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5	Widor

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, Mary Kathleen Duncan, Lauren Slingerland, *liturgists*

Nancy Smith, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

Westminster Brass: Craig King, Jim Kilgus, Mark Britt, Henry Niehaus

Andrew Knauer, *timpani*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

With Thanksgiving

The birth of a daughter, Virginia Severs Howell, to George & Liz Howell on 3/23/2021.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP FROM HOME ON THIS EASTER SUNDAY?

Our pre-recorded service will air on our website at 9a and 11:15a, and on our social media platforms.

NEW BEGINNINGS: THE FLOWERING CROSS

Beginning on Good Friday after 3pm, you are invited to bring flowers or greenery from your home to “flower” two crosses on our campus – one near the bell tower alongside Augusta St. or one in our Green Lot at W. Augusta Pl. If you are attending Easter services in the Green Lot, you are also invited to bring flowers or greenery to put on the crosses on Easter Sunday. Please be mindful if another family is participating to practice social distancing.

Especially during this moment, we believe the Flowering Cross can act as a reminder of the power of our faith and our collective witness. The cross at full bloom proclaims Christianity’s most profound truth: that God creates hope where there was none, life from death, an empty tomb from a Roman Cross. In flowering the cross we are reminded that there is no Easter celebration without first confronting Good Friday, no empty tomb without the shadow of the cross. And, most importantly, we are reminded that death, exile, and darkness never have the final word.

The flowering cross appears in Christian art as early as the 6th. century, and is believed to have come from a legend that Christ’s cross burst into bloom after Jesus’ death. This year the flowering cross will serve as a proclamation to our greater community – that even after a year of unexpected separation God works among us, and we are called to participate in new ways of being together and doing God’s work. Separately and together we will proclaim the good news of Easter Sunday: Christ is risen indeed!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MEN OF THE CHURCH - SPRING CAMP THORNWELL MISSION

The Spring Men's Mission Trip to Camp Thornwell will be Wednesday, May 12 through Saturday, May 15. Overnight indoor accommodations will be limited according to Covid protocol, so sign ups to reserve beds are required (<https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/mens-mission-trip/>). Camping onsite is also an option. All food will be provided. We will be finishing construction of a cabin structure plus the ever present landscaping, cleaning, and odd jobs. We have something for all to do whether you come for a day or for one or more nights. Contact Paul O'Neal (paulmoneal@aol.com) with questions.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

SUNDAY MORNING

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Zoom Bible Study on Easter. The Pastor's Zoom Bible Study will resume next Sunday, April 11, at 10a 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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School is pre-recorded this week on YouTube. We will meet again on Zoom on Sunday, April 18!

JUSTFAITH:

FAITH AND RACIAL JUSTICE

Zoom meetings have resumed and will continue through Monday, May 24 at 6p. For information, previously registered class members may call Susan McLeod (787-6262).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HIKING GROUP

The next outing of the Hiking Group will be a bike ride on the Doodle Trail from Easley to Pickens - Thursday, April 8. Register with Anne Holleman (holl2759@att.net or 979-1606).

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 6 at 7pm. Verify location or type of meeting with Ellen Stevenson (ellens7377@gmail.com). Ingrid Erwin will lead the discussion of *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to be received this Easter supports Presbyterian programs around the world, providing funding for world hunger, disaster relief, and helping people in underdeveloped countries improve their standard of living through a better food supply and health care. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for One Great Hour of Sharing.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Women of Westminster
Annual Generations
Banquet**

**Sunday, April 25
1:30p**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 4 - 11, 2021

April 4

EASTER SUNDAY

- 8:00a Outdoor Easter Service
- 9:00 Outdoor Easter Service
- 10:00 Outdoor Easter Service
- 11:00 Outdoor Easter Service

Monday, April 5

Church Office Closed
Weekday School Closed

Tuesday, April 6

Weekday School Closed

- 12:00p Zoom Administrative Committee Meeting
- 6:00 Westminster Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, April 7

Weekday School Closed

Thursday, April 8

Weekday School Closed
8:00a Hiking Group Outing

Friday, April 9

Weekday School Closed

Sunday, April 11

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:00a Zoom Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 9:00 Online Worship Service
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
- Confirmation Class: Session 5 in Green Lot
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service
- 5:00p WPCYG Middler Shepherd Groups
- 6:30 WPCYG Senior High Shepherd Groups

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2021 Easter Lily Memorials/Honorariums

The lilies have been given by the following:

Johnny & Gene Aiken
in memory of *Johanna and Champ*

Johnny & Gene Aiken
in memory of *Bill Hill*

Will & Beth Edwards
in honor of *Dave & Joan Edwards*

John Elingburg
in memory of *Joyce Kemp*

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of *Hayward and Elizabeth Grier*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of *Dr. & Mrs. John Miller Grier*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of *Elizabeth Guritz*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of *David Guritz*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of *Westminster's Staff*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2021 Easter Lily Memorials/Honorariums continued

Lydia Kellett
in memory of *Bill Kellett*

Carolyn Sems
in memory of *Dave Sems*
and *Brian Samf*

Gaye & Joel Sprague
in memory of *Ben Sprague*

Gaye & Joel Sprague
in memory of *Marian Sprague*

Dick & Caroline Stewart
in memory of *Travis Cale*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2021 Heritage Lecture Fund Memorials/Honorariums

Tony & Jean Atkins
in memory of *Bill Atkins*

Tony & Jean Atkins
in memory of *Howard & Ouida Nickles*

Tony & Jean Atkins
in honor of *Clay, Collin, and Cameron*

Will & Beth Edwards
in memory of *their grandparents*

Will & Beth Edwards
in memory of *Tom Holladay*

Will & Beth Edwards
in honor of *Joan Asbury Holladay*

Bill & Emmy Holt
in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Holt, Jr.*

Bill & Emmy Holt
in memory of *Dr. & Mrs. Max E. Moravec*

Dick & Caroline Stewart
in memory of *Ben Sprague*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2021 Endowment Fund Memorials/Honorariums

Johnny & Gene Aiken

in honor of *their grandchildren: Reeves and Chas Major,
Clare and Drew Mackie, Busy and Jack Aiken, Henry and Lucas White, Straton and
Wyatt Covington*

Dick & Jo Allen

in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. James Hagood Bruce*

Dick & Jo Allen

in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Richard Loudon Allen*

Dick & Jo Allen

in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Edward Everett Leach*

Dick & Jo Allen

in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. William Edgar Saylor*

Pat Taylor and Kay Kelly

in memory of *Pat's husband and Kay's father, Don Taylor*

Kay Kelly

in honor of *Pat Taylor*

Margaret Paylor

in memory of *John Hill Paylor, Jr.*

Margaret Paylor

in honor of *her family*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2021 Endowment Fund Memorials/Honorariums continued

Dick & Caroline Stewart
in memory of *Andrew Einstein*

Dick & Becky Toohey
in honor of *Trad Turrentine*

Jim & Susan Robbins
in memory of *Bill & Nancy Patterson*

Midge Williams
in memory of *Charlie Williams*

Midge Williams
in honor of *Jim & Patty Howard, Reid and Charles*

Midge Williams
in honor of *Nancy Williams*

