

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIII | MAY 9, 2021 | No. 52B

From the Pews, Brandon Coker

Blinded... The scripture passage for this week has so many different potential discussion topics; from God's message from heaven to Saul, a man that was persecuting followers of Christ, to blinding Saul for three days, to the direction to Ananias to go and heal Saul so that he may carry on the words of God to others. As I was studying the passage, I became mostly curious as to what was going through Saul's mind for the three days of being blind and not eating or drinking. Was he wondering what just happened? Was he "coming to grips" with the realization of the truth of Christ, and his fate? Did the three days provide him with the time to assess and plan for how he should change his life, and the focus of his thoughts and actions? Was he blinded so he could be present with his thoughts, and think through what happens now?

My thoughts then gravitated quickly to wondering if I am blinded by all of the daily activities of life. Do I do have a focused and consistent relationship with God? While I would obviously not want to be physically blind for any amount of time, let alone three days like Saul, my relationship with God could definitely use more time in quiet, focused and consistent prayer.

What do you do when you have a spare moment, hour, day without many to-dos or distractions? Laura and I both are to-do list, calendars and goals "people." With three kids and two careers, we really have to be, and I know we are not alone in doing this. My kids always sigh when I make us go over yearly goals on the way home from Columbia after our family Christmas get together. Our goals are typically full of items focused on grades, financial management, reading books, travel, health, etc. I write down these goals and then periodically discuss and assess. We make time to plan and pursue these goals. Saul used his three days of "blinded focus" to plan for a change in his life and in his relationship with God. Our yearly goals need to include making time every day for prayer, our "blinded focus," to build and maintain our relationship with God.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 9, 2021 | In-Person at 11:15a | Sixth Sunday of Easter



Preparation for **Worship**

“The church is constituted as a new people who have been gathered from the nations to remind the world that we are in fact one people. Gathering, therefore, is an eschatological act as it is the foretaste of the unity of the communion of the saints.”

Stanley Hauerwas

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 “Amazing Grace” arr. Hustad

Introit “Surely” Langston

* Call to Worship Psalm 105:1, 8, 42-43

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name,
make known God’s deeds among the peoples.

People: **God is mindful of God’s covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded,
for a thousand generations.**

Leader: God remembered his holy promise,
and Abraham, God’s servant.
God brought God’s people out with joy,
God’s chosen ones with singing.

All: **Let us worship God!**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God,
we know that we have wandered far from the
path of life and love that you have set for us.
Too often we focus on our fears, and our vision becomes narrow.
We spend energy on aimless pursuits,
and then our souls grow weary.
We turn a blind eye to the pain and violence of our world,
but remember in detail every
small grievance we have felt.
Forgive us, Holy One,
and remind us anew what it means to be your people.
Teach us once again the truth we see in Christ,
the grace we receive through Christ,
the freedom we have with Christ,
and the love we show because of Christ.
We ask it in his holy name. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

The Sacrament of Baptism

Mary Caroline Sprague

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson, 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-12

New Testament Lesson, Acts 9:1-19a

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Chosen"

Anthem

"Open Thou Mine Eyes"

Rutter

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

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response

“Go Out in Peace”

Davis

Postlude

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Manz

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Gaye Sprague, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Katie Knauer, Diana Dailey, Emily Sweezey, Hunter Ditsch,

Mark Kemp, Andrew Knauer, *vocalists*

Ross Glidewell, *head usher*

Durden Collins, Jara Jones, *greeters*

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

We welcome *Mary Caroline Sprague*, daughter of Jay & Mollie Sprague, in our worship service this morning.

This morning we welcomed into our fellowship *Katharine Frances Kester*, daughter of Lee & Anne Kester, at our 9a recorded service.

In Memoriam

Charles Wilford Gay
(12/16/1925 - 4/21/2021)

"I am the resurrection and the life." - John 11:25

We Remember in Prayer

The family of Charles Gay.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

CONFIRMING THE CLASSES OF 2020 AND 2021

SUNDAY, MAY 9 3P

We welcome your prayers and invite you to join us for worship in the Green Lot as we recognize our newest Confirmands. We will be celebrating 57(!) 9th and 10th graders as the newest adult members of Westminster. Pre-registration for non-family members through the WPC website is required.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WESTFEST AT THE RUNWAY

We are thrilled to announce a rescheduled WestFest, this time at the Downtown Airport in the Runway Cafe hangar (21 Airport Rd. ext), on Sunday, June 6th from 4:00-7:00p. WestFest on the Runway will be a ticketed event. Visit wpc-online.org to reserve your spot. WestFest on the Runway will feature live music from Sam Burchfield and beverages from Brewery 85. Social distancing will be encouraged and masking required when not eating or drinking.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP FROM HOME ON SUNDAY MORNING?

Our pre-recorded service will continue to air on our website at 9a thru May 23, 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 11:15a livestream worship, you may download it from our website at <https://wpc-online.org/sermon-archive>. On May 30 we will transition to our summer schedule. We will live stream our service at 10a. There will no longer be a pre-recorded option.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

SUNDAY MORNING

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

Celebrating Mother's Day with a gift to Presbyterian Communities of SC is a long standing tradition for SC Presbyterian churches. PCSC consists of six retirement facilities located throughout the state. The offering benefits residents who need financial assistance during their last years. To make a donation, make checks payable to WPC and designate them for PCSC. For information about PCSC, go to www.prescommunities.org.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER SCHOLARSHIP

Each year WoW offers scholarships to provide financial aid among college and graduate student membership. Any Westminster member who will be furthering their education in the fall is eligible to apply. Applications are available from the church office or online at www.wpc-online.org. Applicants may contact Coleman Dixon (colemamdixon@hotmail.com) with any questions. The deadline is Friday, June 18, 2021. Church members are reminded that memorials and donations may be designated to this scholarship fund to aid in its continuation.

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 hike for the WPC Hiking Group will be Friday, May 14, along the Foothills Trail. This hike will be led by Kathryn Algary. If interested, contact Kathryn at kaalgary@gmail.com.

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9-16, 2021

Sunday, May 9

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9:00a Online Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Meeting (Room 309)
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
Zoom Children's Sunday School
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service
- 3:00p Confirmation of 2020 & 2021 Confirmation Classes in the Green Lot

Tuesday, May 11

- 12:00p Zoom Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
- 4:30 8th Grade Bible Study Tuesday
- 6:00 Youth Advisor Painting Class
- 6:30 Senior High Dinner Club Tuesday

Wednesday, May 12

Men's Mission Trip to Camp Thornwell

- 9:30a Weekday Chapel
- 9:45 Weekday Chapel
- 10:00 Weekday Chapel

Thursday, May 13

Men's Mission Trip to Camp Thornwell

Friday, May 14

Men's Mission Trip to Camp Thornwell

Saturday, May 15

Men's Mission Trip to Camp Thornwell

Sunday, May 16

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Men's Mission Trip to Camp Thornwell

- 9:00a Online Worship Service
Membership Committee Meeting (Room 209)
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
Zoom Children's Sunday School
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service
- 12:30p Zoom Stated Session Meeting

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

Ben Dorr
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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SESSION

The Class of 2022

Talitha Allen

Michael Dixon

Sarah Beasley

Ben Edwards

Brian Blount

Ashley Gettys

Scott Clark

Anna Hanor

Brandon Coker

Susan Jones

Bob Dellert

Becky Warth

The Class of 2023

Mary Ashmore

Kevin Lancaster

Tony Atkins

Lisa Mangione

Jeff Beck

Rob Morgan

Emily Busby

Carl Muller

Caroline Clark

Mae Todd Mullins

Durden Collins

Laura Williams Sanders

The Class of 2024

Hastings Blumer

Toni Paylor

Jay Culclasure

Neil Shurley

Ross Glidewell

Keith Stevenson

Jara Jones

Lesley Usher

Meg McKnight

LeAnne White

Kate Weaver Patterson

Russ Williams