

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | MAY 16, 2021 | No. 1A

From the Pews, George McLarty

This week's scripture passage is John 17:6-19. As you read the verses, you can hear Jesus' concern for us after his death. Jesus fears Christians will be lost, yet we hear a voice of encouragement asking us each to continue his teachings. Jesus has done all he can on earth and is preparing to leave, but why is he worried about leaving us? As a teacher, Jesus is uncertain if his work is complete and if he has fully prepared us. Will we become lost in grief after his death or be able to rise and walk in his footsteps? Are his footsteps deep enough for us to follow? If so, how long will they last? Jesus has been called home and knows this is his next chapter; he does not simply ask God for more time on Earth, but instead reaches out pleading for our support after his death.

Aren't our lives filled with beginnings, changes, and endings? Often, we eagerly await the exciting new adventures ahead. It could be a new school, learning to drive, the birth of a child, marriage, or a new job. Our minds become filled with dreams and hopes of the opportunities ahead. We are excited to learn and immerse ourselves in everything about these experiences. We have many changes throughout our lives, some more welcome than others. Sometimes, though, change is more unwanted or unforeseen, and it can clog our thoughts with angst and concern. Change can also come so unexpectedly. I'm reminded of difficult, recent national news; I have a sinking feeling each time I hear of another mass shooting in our world. Can you imagine the grief of those first learning the heartbreaking news of an unexpected and unforeseen loss of an innocent loved one?

The death of Jesus is certainly one of those unwanted endings, and Jesus seems to know that his followers will grieve his death. Jesus has brought the word of God to the people and they have accepted the word. Now, Jesus prays to God and wants to ensure God is going to protect us after his own death.

For me, this passage will be helpful the next time life throws an unwanted change. It serves as a reminder that God walks with each of us throughout our lives. Even more, this passage reminds us that everything we encounter in life comes from our faith and the promise of life eternal through the sacrifice Jesus made for us so that we can live with grace each day of our life on earth. With this passage in our hearts, may we always embrace change and know that God will walk with us through each of life's challenges. Amen.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 16, 2021 | On Demand on Facebook & YouTube | [9a wpc-online.org](http://9a.wpc-online.org)



Seventh Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

Our spiritual hunger is evidence of the timeless human need for a real and abiding relationship with God. God is the one who calls us into relationships, and God does everything possible to restore us when we have wriggled out of the mutual demands of this relationship. God's love lies at the root of our hunger for God. Love is God's hunger for a relationship with us. Has it ever occurred to us that God is starved for our companionship?

Marjorie Thompson, *Soul Feast*

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

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in C Major

JS Bach

Welcome and Announcements

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

People: And also with you.

Call to Worship

1 John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater.

Those who believe in the Son of God

have the testimony in their hearts.

This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life,

and this life is in his Son.

Whoever has the Son has life.

We gather knowing that you have eternal life.

Let us worship the Lord of life together.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hymn #619

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

Lauda Anima

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

**Living God, we confess that our faith is sometimes weak,
our love for others can be faint,
our prayers are often timid,
and our gratitude is frequently unconvincing.**

**When we stand looking toward heaven,
yet feel far from you,
you draw near in mercy to forgive us.**

Keep us open to the mysterious work of grace.

**Enable us to receive and respond to your love,
which in turn yields the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.**

**Help us to grow in your embrace and fill us with your power
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,
our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

The Sacrament of Baptism

Melanie Margaret Louise Moorhead

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, Psalm 1:1-6

Gospel Lesson, John 17:6-19

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Xylem and Phloem”

Anthem

“Hear Me, Redeemer”

Mallicone

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 #744 “Arise, Your Light Is Come!” Festal Song

Charge and Benediction

Postlude “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” arr. Limbaugh

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Lauren Slingerland, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Lydia Kellett, *sponsor/lay reader*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Emily Sweezey, Judy McKenney, Diana Dailey, Hunter Ditsch, Mark Kemp, *vocalists*

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Melanie Margaret Louise Moorhead*, daughter of Kelly Moorhead.

At our 11:15a livestream service, we welcome *Olivia Marie Revson*, daughter of Will & Megan Revson.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, *Allie Stern* and *Matthew Schroth* were united in marriage at Westminster.

The birth of a son, *Edson Gray Giguere*, to Kent & Caroline Giguere on 5/5/2021.

The birth of a daughter, *Louise Springs Hipp*, to William & Candice Hipp on 5/5/2021.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

MOVING TO ONE SERVICE

On Sunday, May 30, we will begin our traditional summer worship schedule. We will gather for one service at 10a in the sanctuary. This service will be live streamed.

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

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Women of Westminster 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).

ON TAP

Join us for On Tap (formerly Youngish) on Wednesday, May 19, at Think Tank Brew Lab (101 Airport Rd.). We will meet at 6p. Contact Leigh (lstuckey@wpc-online.org) for more information.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME JULIA WATKINS

Join us in the Green Lot Sunday, May 23, 3-4:30p for a drop in welcoming our newest associate pastor, Julia Watkins.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

We would like to list the names of our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office at 232-2424. The names will be listed in the June 6 Harbinger.

Name: _____

School: _____

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 16-23, 2021

Sunday, May 16

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 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

Tuesday, May 18

- 4:30p Eighth Grade Bible Study Tuesday in the Green Lot

Wednesday, May 19

- 9:30a Weekday School Spring Program
- 11:00 Weekday School Spring Program
- 6:30p Senior High Dinner Club Wednesday in the Green Lot

Sunday, May 23

PENTECOST

- 9:00a Online Worship Service with communion
Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Zoom Sunday Bible Study
Zoom Children's Sunday School
- 11:15 In-Person Worship Service with communion
- 3:00p Meet & Greet with Julia Watkins in the Green Lot

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

Ben Dorr
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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