

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | MAY 30, 2021 | No. 3

From the Pews, Russ Williams

Today's scripture, Isaiah 6:1-13 is often referred to as "Isaiah's Call and Commission" and is one of the most important of the prophetic call passages in the Bible. To begin the passage, Isaiah (who lived in Jerusalem at the end of the 8th and beginning of the 9th centuries BCE) refers to the death of King Uzziah. This king was the only ruler that Isaiah had known during his life and is described as an effective leader who led Israel over a 52-year span. King Uzziah's death came at a critical time given the increasing threat of Assyrian invasion and the reported weakness of his son and successor, Jotham. Isaiah may be feeling anxiety and a sense of foreboding with the death of this long serving leader. He is clearly distressed with the uncertainty of the times and the potential loss of stability in his country. What will happen to the nation? Will it face economic ruin, and will its people return to idolatry as before? Will the people be forced to answer to an outside power?

With these real and significant concerns, Isaiah enters the Temple and envisions Yahweh sitting on a heavenly throne. His robes are "filling the Temple" and his glory fills the whole earth. The chamber of the Temple is described as ringing with the cries of "Holy, Holy, Holy," a phrase that all of us hear frequently in our worship and singing here at WPC. Isaiah seems to make a discovery that while the earthly king Uzziah has died, the true King, the one who transcends the human world and is the absolute God, is very much in power. Isaiah immediately realizes he is a sinner with "unclean lips," part of a nation of sinners with "unclean lips," in the presence of the holy God. Isaiah's unclean lips are then cleansed with the intercession of an other-worldly seraphim who places a coal from the Temple altar on his lips and thus removes his "iniquity." The prophet then volunteers as God's messenger in response to God's question of "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah is shocked to learn that in serving as the messenger, he will likely be estranged from his own world. Even more shocking, the scripture shares that the land and the people will be destroyed by their enemies. At the close of the passage, we learn

that despite the pending destruction and loss, God will ultimately allow Israel a new beginning that will sprout from the “remnants.”

How does this passage apply to us? We have all experienced a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety in recent times. The pandemic, political turmoil, difficulty and conflict in many parts of our world; all make it easy to relate to the feelings that Isaiah experienced with the death of the good King Uzziah. Like Isaiah, I have spent a good bit of time during the last 18 months, longing for the “good old days” and worrying with the uncertainty of the world situation. In fact, I will admit to seeking solace in the nostalgic simplicity of life as portrayed in *The Andy Griffith Show* during this pandemic. For any who are interested, with appropriate scheduling, one can catch up to a few hours of *The Andy Griffith Show* daily. Rather than seeking comfort and wasting time with an unhealthy level of focus on an unrealistic and idyllic past, perhaps, like Isaiah, I should realize that God is still the present and absolute ruler. He is the holy God who is always moving in this world. Perhaps, in seeking the Lord’s presence, we can lessen our worldly anxiety and move in a positive and forward direction in our lives?

The other thought that comes to me from this passage relates to the challenge to the Prophet Isaiah in being God’s messenger. He seems to realize that in being in God’s presence and in accepting the call to be his messenger, he may face hardship and estrangement. It is exciting to think that we, like Isaiah, might seek God’s presence and see ourselves as we truly are, sinners in need of the cleansing “coal.” And perhaps then, we will be able to more clearly see God’s will for us, our life’s role and commission?

Amen.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 30, 2021 | In-Person at 10a | Trinity Sunday



Preparation for **Worship**

God, good beyond all that is good, in you is calmness, peace, and concord. Heal the dissensions that divide us from one another and bring us back to a unity of love bearing some likeness to your divine nature. Through the embrace of love and the bonds of godly affection, make us one in the Spirit by your peace which makes all things peaceful. We ask this through the grace, mercy, and tenderness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dionysius of Alexandria

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 "Holy, Holy, Holy" arr. Pethel

Choral Introit "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" Schicht

* Call to Worship *Proverbs 3:5-6, Revelation 1:8*

Leader: Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.

People: **In all your ways acknowledge God,
and God will make straight your paths.**

Leader: I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God.

People: **Who is and who was and who is to come,
the Almighty.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Prayer of Confession

God of grace, love, and communion,

**we confess that we have failed to love you with all our heart,
mind, soul and strength.**

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have put our own desires ahead of the welfare of others.

**We ignore your commandments, stray from your way,
and follow other gods.**

Forgive us, Holy One.

**Remind us again of our dependence on one another,
and of our dependence on you.**

**Mold us into more faithful disciples,
a people who strive not for life's comforts
but to carry our neighbor's cross.**

We ask it all in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri (Hymnal, No. 581)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as
it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen, Amen.***

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *Mark 8:22-26*

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 6:1-13*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A Resume with Failure"

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Affirmation of Faith, *from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the church.
In a broken and fearful world,
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

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.**

Offering

Anthem

"Trust in the Lord"

Gawthrop

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God,
all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly
host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

* Prayer of Dedication

* Charge and Benediction

Choral Response

"Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit"

Schicht

Postlude

Postlude from *Te Deum*

Charpentier

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

Brandon Coker, *head usher*

Anna Hanor, Ross Glidewell, *greeters*

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On Sunday, May 30, we will transition to our summer schedule. We will live stream our service at 10:00a. There will no longer be a prerecorded option. Also beginning on Sunday, May 30:

- Our nursery will be open.
- We will gradually introduce congregational singing back into our liturgy.
- DONUTS AFTER WORSHIP!

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

**Vacation Bible School
Save the date! | August 2 - 6
Rising kindergartners
to rising fifth graders**

Mark your calendars and join us for the 2021 Westminster Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School - Compassion Camp: Changing the World with Lovingkindness!

Children will spend the week exploring what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves and the world.

This year's VBS will be in-person, with groups gathering both inside and outside.

Registration opens June 6. Register online at vbspro.events/p/2021wpc.

VBS needs volunteers! Please join us for a fun and fulfilling week with many volunteer opportunities! If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Rachel Workman (rachelworkman@gmail.com), or Lindsey Donlan (lindsey.donlan@gmail.com).

JUSTFAITH:

Sacred Air will be the next JustFaith program focus beginning in September. It will address climate change and energy through the lenses of faith, science, and environmental justice. Readings from Pope Francis, Hope Jahren, and others will help to guide this nine-week program. Stay tuned for dates/times of meetings. For more information, contact Meg McKnight (670-5078) or Bill Holt (982-3368).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 (colemandixon@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.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, June 1, at 7p at McAlister's Deli (Augusta St.). Arrive at 6:30p if you want to have dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Beth Edwards will lead the discussion of God's in Alabama by Joshilyn Jackson. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

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 30 - June 6, 2021

Sunday, May 30

TRINITY SUNDAY

10:00a Worship Service

11:00 Fellowship with donuts

Monday, May 31

Church Office closed

Tuesday, June 1

12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting (Rm 209)

7:00 Book Club at McAlister's Deli

Wednesday, June 2

6:30p Waffle Cone Wednesday for Middlers (green lot)

7:30 Waffle Cone Wednesday for Senior Highs (green lot)

Sunday, June 6

2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00a Worship Service

11:00 Fellowship with donuts

4:00p WestFest at the Runway

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

Ben Dorr
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bdorr@wpc-online.org

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Children's Choir Coordinator
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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