

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | JUNE 20, 2021 | No. 6

From the Pews, Kathleen Reynolds

A warm breeze and the gentle rocking of a boat while it floats on the water would put anyone to sleep. Jesus found himself in that very place where our text Mark 4:35-41 starts. He had been traveling around preaching and healing people and just needed a little rest. I imagine it to be like a quick power nap after being up all night with an infant. You just need to close your eyes for a minute to recharge. In our text Jesus is suddenly shaken awake by the disciples who are pacing because a storm has come upon them. Again, this seems to me like being shaken awake by a toddler who didn't know where you were and is upset that they couldn't find you.

I imagine that Jesus must have felt a bit crabby. I know that I do not wake up from a nap in the best mood. It's very disorienting to be peacefully sleeping and then suddenly awakened. Jesus then calms the storm but after turns to his disciples in verse 40 and says, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Oh man, that must have felt like a gut punch for the disciples. These guys had been roaming around with Jesus for a little while now. They had seen up close and personal the miracles that Jesus was performing and yet they were still in shock when Jesus calmed the sea. In verse 41 the disciples "were in absolute awe, staggered. 'Who is this, anyway?'"

In reading this passage I actually feel relieved. I don't feel relieved that the storm became calm or that they didn't crash in their boat. I feel relieved in the surprise that the disciples expressed after Jesus had been woken up from a nice afternoon nap to calm things down. They still had not fully embraced the amazing power of Jesus despite it being right in front of them. They doubted that they would be okay in that boat in the middle of the storm and then were stunned by Jesus's actions.

Two thousand years plus in the future and this text gives me great relief that my doubt and questioning of God is something human, something that I have to embrace and use to deepen my understanding of God and her awesome power. We all are guilty of the sin of not believing what is right in front of our eyes. We try to rationalize or see God through the human perspective. Thank goodness God is patient with our non-belief. She is patiently waiting for us to have that Ah-ha moment when we will turn everything over to her.

"Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep us moving." This quote from Frederick Buechner perfectly sums up why we should not turn away from that doubt, but when those doubts inevitably arise, turn toward God who will help guide us to a deeper relationship with her.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, June 20, 2021 | In-Person at 10a | Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Preparation for **Worship**

O God, full of compassion, I commit and commend myself to you, in whom I am, and live, and know. Be the goal of my pilgrimage, and my rest by the way. Let my soul take refuge from the crowding turmoil of worldly thought beneath the shadow of your wings. Let my heart, this sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God. Amen.

Augustine of Hippo

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 "Largo" Handel

Introit "Be Still and Know I Am God" Berthier

* Call to Worship *Psalm 46:1-3, 7*

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: **Therefore we will not fear,**
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

Leader: Though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

People: **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" HYMN TO JOY

stanza 1

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God,
we know that our fears often get the better of our faith.
When our lives feel out of control,
we reach for the nearest idol instead of placing our trust in you.
Far too often, we choose griping instead of gratitude,
complaining instead of compassion, safety instead of sacrifice,
and judgment instead of grace.
Forgive us, and remind us of your power to transform our timid lives.
No matter what chaos threatens to overwhelm us,
grant us a peace that passes understanding,
and a hope that rests in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
through whom we pray. 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Frank Reece Wrenn, V

Congregational Response

"Baptized in Water"

Bunessan



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 43:1-3a*

Gospel Lesson, *Mark 4:35-41*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "He Could Sleep Through Anything"

Anthem "When You Pass Through the Waters"

Weber

* 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.**

Call to Prayer "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Melita

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

Offering

Offertory

"Peace Be Still"

arr. Page

* 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

* Hymn No. 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

stanza 3

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response

"Fear Not, You Are Mine"

Weber

* Postlude

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

arr. Page

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

LeAnne White *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

Ross Glidewell, *head usher*

Lisa Mangione, Meg McKnight, *greeters*

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Frank Reece Wrenn, V*, son of Frank & Jenny Wrenn.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Robert Malcolm Turner*, to Chase & Alex Turner on May 28, 2021.

The birth of a daughter, *Rosemary Jean Dulin*, to Thad & Dixie Dulin on June 8, 2021.

In Memoriam

Peggy Quinn-Phillips

(5/29/1944 - 6/10/2021)

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

We Remember in Prayer

The family of Peggy Phillips.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On Sunday, May 30, we began our summer schedule. We will live stream our services now at 10:00a. Please note the following changes:

- Our nursery has reopened.
- We will gradually introduce congregational singing back into our liturgy.
- We will have donuts and coffee following worship.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

REGISTER NOW! | AUGUST 2 - 6

RIISING KINDERGARTNERS TO RIISING 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 opened 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 (rachelwworkman@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).

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will gather on Monday, June 21, at 7p in the Green Lot. This will provide a time for talking with friends and a chance to consider options regarding reopening in the fall. All are welcome to attend.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 20 – 27, 2021

Sunday, June 20

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00a Worship Service

11:00 Fellowship with donuts

Monday, June 21

5:30p Theology Reading Group

Tuesday, June 22

12:00p Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 23

11:00a Luncheon Group Meeting

6:30p Middler Waffle Cone Wednesday (Spill the Beans)

7:30 Senior High Waffle Cone Wednesday (Spill the Beans)

Thursday, June 24

6:00p Montreat Parent/Youth Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, June 27

5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00a Worship Service

11:00 Fellowship with donuts

6:00p Middler Summer Retreat: Day 1

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

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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