

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | July 4, 2021 | No. 8

From the Pews, Parks Workman

We are Weak but He is Strong

Sometimes the most complex concepts can be conveyed in a simple song lyric. I once read that Karl Barth, the theologian, indicated the greatest thing he ever learned was reflected in the verse:

*Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so*

This lyric expresses the authority of God's word in revealing the good news of Jesus. (See Donald K. McKim, *Breakfast with Barth*, p.3).

The second half of the verse condenses Paul's letter in 2 Corinthians 12:2-10:

*Little ones to him belong
They are weak but He [Jesus] is strong*

As disciples of Jesus, we belong to him. Yes, let us remember that we are weak and Jesus is strong.

Weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties manifest in many ways. Some may be minor—such as unseemly personality traits, and/or habits. Some may be more piercing, such as physical ailments, health diagnoses, addiction, poverty, disability, homelessness, mental illness, broken relationships At times, it can be very difficult to see how weakness can play a part of God's providence. How can God use . . . to advance his kingdom?

Paul too had his thorn. Paul's thorn was no trivial matter. Paul describes the thorn as a messenger of Satan. Yet Jesus turned this thorn, this weakness, into strength. It kept Paul from turning to the damaging sins of pride and conceitedness. Importantly, it served as a reminder that "My grace is sufficient for you"—a message Paul has conveyed to billions.

As Paul boasts of his thorn, let us too celebrate our weaknesses, for the transforming power of Jesus is best revealed in our weakness. When we truly realize that we are not capable of ruling our own lives is when the strength of King Jesus can take over. When we are weak, we can become truly strong through Jesus.

Whatever thorns you are facing, embrace them and know that Jesus' power is made perfect in our weakness. Indeed, Jesus bore a crown of thorns on his way to the cross. Let Jesus turn our thorns, even if they are manifestations of Satan, into life changing strength.

[We] are weak but He is strong

We know how the rest of the song goes. Let's listen to it in our hearts and take comfort in its truth. The grace of Jesus is sufficient for you.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, July 4, 2021 | In-Person at 10a | Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Preparation for **Worship**

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being: You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 "On Eagle's Wings" arr. Hayes

Introit "Surely" Langston

* Call to Worship *1 Corinthians 1:27-28, 25*

Leader: God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.

People: **God chose what is weak in the world
to shame the strong.**

Leader: God chose what is low and despised in the world,
things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are.

People: **God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 331

NATIONAL HYMN

"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Prayer of Confession

**Forgive us, O God,
for behaving like the world revolves around us.
We have spent time and energy pursuing selfish pleasures,
striving for goals that you did not command.
We have bought into the world's wisdom,
competing with our neighbors, insisting that might makes right.
When our livelihood was threatened, we condoned violence.
When our hearts were wounded, we lashed out at those we love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
and set our minds on what truly matters.
Help us to pay attention to those in need,
to trust in you when life spins out of control,
and to love all people who cross our path,
no matter the commitment or cost.
In Christ's name 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.***

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *Mark 9:33-37*

p. 821

Epistle Lesson, *2 Corinthians 12:2-10*

p. 943

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Weakness and Strength"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith, from *The Confession of 1967*

God's sovereign love is a mystery

beyond the reach of the human mind.

**Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power,
wisdom, and goodness.**

But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ

by showing power in the form of a servant,

wisdom in the folly of the cross,

and goodness in receiving sinful men and women.

The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world

discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord

and Creator who made all things

to serve the purpose of God's love.

Choral Call to Prayer

Kaan

"For the Healing of the Nations"

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

"Prayer for Peace"

Trotta

* 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. 740

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response

"Lead Me, O Lord, Lead Me"

Akers

* Postlude

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

arr. Young

**All who are able may stand*

Leading in Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble

Brandon Coker, *head usher*

Mae Todd Mullins, Sarah Beasley, *greeters*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In Memoriam

Patricia Tuck

(12/20/1941 - 6/25/2021)

"I am the resurrection and the life."

- John 11:25

We Remember in Prayer

Jay Culclasure on the death of his father, James W. Culclasure, in Greenville - 6/22/2021.

Gayle Blouin on the death of her mother, Eloise Smith, in Greenville - 6/24/2021.

The family of Patricia Tuck.

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 (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).

WPC BOOK CLUB:

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, July 6, at 7p at McAlister's Deli (Augusta St.). Arrive at 6:30p if you want to have dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion of Deacon King Kong by James McBride. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4 - 11, 2021

Sunday, July 4

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00a Worship Service

11:00 Fellowship with donuts

Monday, July 5

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, July 6

6:00p Montreat Parent/Youth Meeting

7:00 Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, July 7

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

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

Thursday, July 8

12:00p Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, July 11

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00a Worship Service

11:00 Fellowship with donuts

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