



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Lord, open unto me
 Open unto me—light for my darkness.
 Open unto me—courage for my fear.
 Open unto me—hope for my despair.
 Open unto me—peace for my turmoil.
 Open unto me—joy for my sorrow.
 Open unto me—strength for my weakness.
 Open unto me—wisdom for my confusion.
 Open unto me—forgiveness for my sins.
 Open unto me—love for my hates.
 Open unto me—thy Self for my self. Amen.

Howard Thurman (1900-1981)

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 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Walcha

Introit "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" Dake

* Call to Worship Psalm 100:1,2,5

Leader: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
 Worship the Lord with gladness.
 Come into God's presence with singing!

**People: For the Lord is a gracious God,
 whose mercy is everlasting,
 and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 385 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" OLD HUNDREDETH

* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we have worked day and night,
 for many months and years,
 yet despite all we have acquired, we too often feel empty.
 We yearn for a heavy catch, for meaningful lives,
 but our nets are bare.
 We follow the ways of the world and seek its gratification,
 turning our eyes away from places of need
 and ignoring your call on our lives.
 Forgive us God,
 when we are too tired to cast our nets where you lead;
 when we are too stubborn to hear your instruction,
 when we seek after the ways for the world.
 Have mercy on us when we are afraid to follow your leading.
 Grant us grace, that we may proclaim your word,
 work for your kingdom, and trust your promises. 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

Anna Noelia Andres

Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Buessian



Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Micah 6:6-8* p. 757

New Testament Lesson, *Luke 5:1-11* p. 836

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "We're Going to Need a Bigger Net"

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.**

Call to Prayer "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" Harling

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

Offertory "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" Gabarán

* 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. 749

WE ARE CALLED

"Come Live in the Light"

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction "Amen" Harling

* Postlude An Exhortation to Praise L. Smith

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*
 Julia Watkins, *liturgist*
 Sarah Beasley, *sponsor*
 Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*
 Sanctuary Choir Ensemble
 Mark Kemp, Judy McKenney, *guitarists*
 Ross Glidewell, *head usher*
 Lesley Usher, Becky Warth, *greeters*

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Anna Noelia Andres*, daughter of Jorge Andres Amo & Holly Vanderwal.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Friday, July 16, 2021, *Katie Lindler* and *Andrew Haag* were united in marriage at Westminster.

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.

LUNCHEON GROUP:

The Luncheon Group will meet on Wednesday, July 28, at 12p in Room 209. Group Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@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).

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:

Many local students have experienced disproportionate challenges as a result of the pandemic. Westminster has an opportunity to respond by partnering with The United Way on their School Tools event, which will support Greenville County students by providing students with completed backpacks on their first day of school. We invite everyone to donate supplies through August 4. Then, our children at VBS will pack into 150-200 backpacks on Friday, Aug.6 and include a personalized backpack tag they created. All backpacks will directly equip students for a year of academic recovery and success. Items to be collected include and may be dropped off at the church office:

- Spiral notebooks
- Folders
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Glue, glue sticks
- Rulers
- Packs of facial tissue

WPC BOOK CLUB:

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, August 3, at 7p at McAlister's Deli (Augusta St.). Arrive at 6:30p if you want to have dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Buffie Taylor will lead the discussion of *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

HIKING GROUP:

The Hiking Group will leave on Wednesday, October 20, for a three-day trip to bike the Virginia Creeper Trail near Damascus, VA. For more information or to sign up for this trip, contact Anne Holleman by Saturday, July 31.

THE HARBINGER

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Greenville, South Carolina 29605
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www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160)
Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Street, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 25 - August 1, 2021

Sunday, July 25

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Senior Highs at Montreat

10:00a	Worship Service
11:00	Fellowship with donuts

Monday, July 26

Senior Highs at Montreat

Tuesday, July 27

Senior Highs at Montreat

Wednesday, July 28

Senior Highs at Montreat

12:00p	Luncheon Group Meeting
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Thursday, July 29

Senior Highs at Montreat

Friday, July 30

Senior Highs at Montreat

Saturday, July 31

Senior Highs at Montreat

Sunday, August 1

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00a	Membership Committee Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Fellowship with donuts

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | July 25, 2021 | No. 11

From the Pews, Brock Koonce

I have asked God many times in my life, “What can I do for you for the gifts you given me?” It seems like a trivial question to ask, knowing that what I have received from God has been far more than I deserve. I have prayed for guidance, strength, health, and love. I have asked for God to watch over my loved ones who are grieving or sick. I have leaned on God for answers to questions that I had no answer to. And, each time, in multiple ways, he has always been there.

In reviewing Micah 6:6-8, I realized that the many times I’ve asked God, “how can I repay you?” was not the right question. The Lord does not want my gifts or my thanks. The Lord simply asks me to “act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” It’s a simple request, and one that I tend to overlook in times of stress, contemplation, and prayer. I want to serve God, but I also want to show him how much I love him and provide him proof of my praise. But, that is not what he asks of me.

We see it in the world around us. To show admiration or adoration for someone or something, we provide something tangible, a statue, a present, or a symbol of our appreciation. God does not ask for these things. He simply asks that we be kind, merciful and walk with him. We do not need to shower gifts upon the Lord for him to love us. It is our faith and our trust in the Lord that gives thanks and appreciation.

I’ve realized that God only asks that I live by the principles and example he set forth. He asks that I live faithfully and just. He asks that I walk with him in my times of sorrow AND happiness. Our gift to God is that we love him and work to live our lives according to the Word. We do not need to offer “thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil.” We do not need to praise God with our “firstborn or the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul.”

He only asks, simply, “To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

