



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“The parable of the laborers in the vineyard is a little like cod liver oil: you know Jesus is right; you know it must be good for you; but that does not make it any easier to swallow. Along with the parable of the prodigal son, today’s parable is one of those stories of forgiveness so radical that it offends, because it seems to reward those who have done the least while it sends those who have worked the hardest to the end of the line.”

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Beginning at the End*

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 Prelude in F Major J.S. Bach

* Call to Worship *adapted from Psalm 50*

Leader: The Lord, the Mighty One, is God, and God has spoken;

People: **the Lord has summoned all humanity from where the sun rises to where it sets,**

Leader: from Mount Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines in glorious radiance.

People: **Our God approaches, our God is not silent.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming" LLANGLOFFAN

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God: We have clung to your gifts with tight fists, serving money rather than you.

We work for the grace that you freely give, and complain when others are shown favor.

We hoard and strive, afraid that you will not be faithful to us.

Forgive us for becoming a people who grumble at grace rather than a people who rejoice in its bounty.

Fill our hearts with gratitude, and help us to share the gifts you have given us.

Strengthen us for the work you have given us, and make us a people of joy and welcome. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

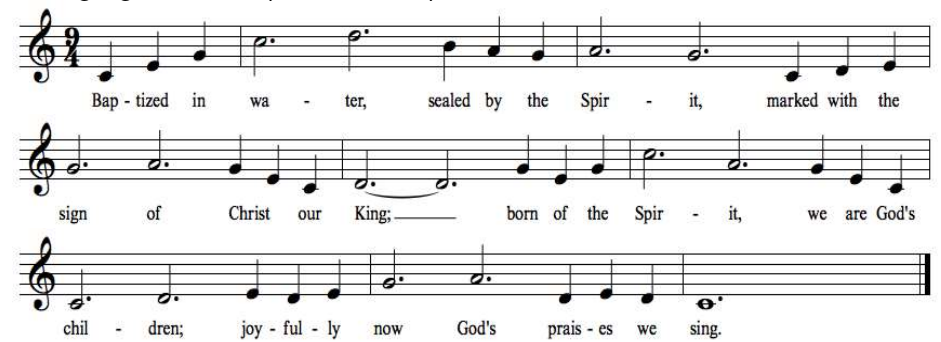
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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 *Emma Ruth Oswald*
 Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Bunessan



Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Psalm 145:1-8* p. 506

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 20:1-15* p. 801

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Fairy Tale Endings"

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.

Offering

Offertory "We Labor Unto Glory" Wardell

* 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. 434 "Restore in Us, O God" BAYLOR

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude Postlude on "Come, Labor On" arr. Smith

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Ashley Gettys, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Allie Ablewood, Corey Sanders, Mark Kemp

Jon McKnight, *head usher*

Caroline Clark, Scott Clark, *greeters*

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Emma Ruth Oswald*, daughter of Michael & Lindsay Oswald.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate MARRIAGE

On Saturday, August 28, 2021, *Sarah Tate* and *Heath Calhoun* were united in marriage at Westminster.

We Remember in Prayer

Dan & Claire Christie on the death of their son, Matthew Christie, in Denver, CO. - 8/18/2021.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

WELCOME TO WPC!

Please fill out a name tag and find more information about WPC at the Welcome Table in the Atrium. First time visitors are also invited to take home a WPC mug.

ENJOY WESTMINSTER'S FRONT PORCH

We hope you will feel at home in Westminster's redesigned Atrium. The space is meant to feel like Westminster's front porch, a place for you to gather, enjoy fellowship with one another, and learn more about who we are. The high tables were designed and built by Soteria, one of our local partners, and the gathering tables were designed and built by Westminster member Dale Gosnell, and reflect the Westminster crosses in their base. In the coming weeks you will see more pieces added to the Atrium. During the worship service, everything can be turned toward the screen to ensure you are able to participate in the service. The Atrium can also serve as a meeting space.

Nursery/Children's Church

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During worship, children in K5-1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children’s Church. Parents can pick their children up in the Children’s Church room across from the library following worship.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our Fall Schedule will resume on September 12th, with worship at 9a, and 11:15a, and Sunday School at 10a.

PRIDE & PRESBYTERIANS

LGBTQ members of Westminster are invited to attend a fellowship gathering at 6p on Tuesday, September 7, at White Duck Taco (301 Airport Rd). Questions? Contact Ellis Friend (ellis.b.friend@gmail.com)

GETTING RE-CONNECTED

The Connections lunch group will meet on Sunday, September 19 at 12:45 at The Iron Hill Brewery (741 Haywood Rd). A table on their patio has been reserved for us. Please RSVP by Friday, September 17 with Ruth Johnston (201-6117 or ruthjohnst51@gmail.com). Newcomers are always welcome!

OPEN MINDS • Giving@WPC

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Make plans to stay after worship this Sunday, September 5th (Labor Day Weekend) for Rise Against Hunger, a fun opportunity for folks of all ages to make a collective impact. Together, we will alleviate hunger by packing 20,000 life-sustaining meals for communities across the globe, including those where Westminster has partnerships in Africa and the Caribbean. Meal packing will take place in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship, and volunteers are also needed to set up and clean up. Registration is strongly encouraged: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/WestminsterPres2021>. Questions? Contact Julia Watkins.

OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

WPC BOOK CLUB:

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, September 7, at 7p at McAlister's Deli (1708B Augusta St.). Arrive at 6:30p if you want to have dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Susan Robbins will lead the discussion of *The Baker's Secret* by Stephen P. Kiernan. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, September 12, at 4p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK RETURNS SEPTEMBER 19-25

Extend hospitality to families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), which helps people experiencing homelessness achieve self-sufficiency and fulfillment. Through IHN, Westminster welcomes parents and children to stay in the church as they work toward sustainable independence. Volunteers are needed to stay overnight, prepare meals, extend fellowship, grocery shop, and offer on-call medical advice. Questions? Contact Kelly Taylor (bkewc.taylor@gmail.com).

In preparation for IHN, the Women of Westminster will be collecting the following items until September 15:

- travel sizes of deodorant,
- soap,
- shampoo/conditioner,
- male/female razors (disposable),
- shaving cream/gel,
- toothpaste/toothbrush/mouthwash,
- hairbrushes,
- shower caps,

as well as G-rated DVDs, new or like-new family games, craft items, and kid-friendly puzzles. Drop off outside the front office.

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 9-10:30a on Sunday, September 26. Those who attend the class are invited to become members during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Julia Watkins (jwatkins@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [wpcgreenville](#) | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER
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Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
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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SAVE THE DATE FOR WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

• September 30, 6:30p

Fall Women of Westminster Social at home of LeAnne White (9 Rockingham Rd., 29607)

Contact Coleman Dixon at 607-8778 for more information!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
September 5 - 12, 2021

Sunday, September 5

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:00a Membership Committee Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:15 Rise Against Hunger

Monday, September 6

Church Office Closed
Weekday School Closed

Tuesday, September 7

12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting
7:00 Westminster Book Club

Wednesday, September 8

9:30a Circle 6
2:45 It's Elementary
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 9

12:00p Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, September 12

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
11:15 Worship Service
4:00p Baptism Class
5:00 Middler Youth Group
WoW Leadership Meeting
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal
Senior High Youth Group

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

Wednesday, September 8

- Circle #6: Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) and Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com), co-chairs, will meet at 9:30a at Liz's home (223 Camille Ave.).

the **HARBINGER**
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | September 5, 2021 | No. 17

From the Pews, Sarah Brice

Our Old Testament scripture for this week comes from the Psalm 145, verses 1-8. This particular Psalm with its emphasis on the praise of God is a universal favorite. It is a personal favorite of mine because it contains an uplifting phrase that I have hummed over and over since my teens: "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised." As a bit of personal history, my family moved from England (and the Church of England) to Due West, South Carolina (and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church) in the 1950s. In those days, ARPs sang Psalms almost exclusively, but there were very few anthems based on the Psalms. One old anthem, "Let Mount Zion Rejoice" fit that criteria and therefore was regularly hauled out for our tiny choir to perform--I can sing almost every beloved word of it from memory to this day. "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised" comprises the rousing first line of this piece. The largely peppy pace of this anthem as performed by the Bellevue Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir of Memphis, Tennessee, makes for excellent listening when doing my pandemic-induced (sometimes excessive) walking.

Who doesn't love the entirety of this middle-most book in the Bible? We are all moved by the book of Psalms since it is a collection of the wide array of human emotions, and there is a Psalm appropriate for every aspect of our earthly experience. Psalm 145 was recited by many Jews twice each morning and once in the evening—that is how pivotal this Psalm was for the Hebrew faith and should be for us today. By acknowledging God's greatness aloud, we are urged to be God's hands and feet in a needy world.

The praise of God's inscrutable greatness is central to our religious heritage—indeed, verse 3 of our passage uses the word "unsearchable" to describe God's greatness. When Jesus was asked by his disciples to tell them how to pray, his suggested perfect prayer, The Lord's Prayer, begins "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. . ." Here Jesus is saying that first and foremost, God should be praised. Before asking for God's help with our down-to-earth petitions, we should speak aloud God's unbelievable greatness, focusing first on God rather than ourselves.

Today's passage is a hymn that epitomizes the magnificent character of God. Our Lord is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." We are to meditate on God's "mighty acts, glorious splendor, wondrous works and abundant goodness." How humbling to think that this great God desires to make himself readily accessible to every one of us!!

welcome back!

Join WPC in Sunday School starting
Sunday, September 12 at 10a.

3K/4K (Room 102)

Led by *Sarah & Bryan Kelley, Amy & Brad Hawkins,
Grace Loveless, and Sarah Matthews*

5K/1st (100 Hall Poles)

Led by *Ashley & Gram Praytor,
Lindsay & Keith Jones, and Tavia & Bill Young*

2nd/3rd (Room 112C)

Led by *Rachel & Parks Workman*

4th/5th (Snack Room)

Led by *Mae Todd & Bo Mullins, Emily & John Merrell,
and Lindsey & Brian Donlan*

Middlers (Youth Suite)

Feasting on the Word

Led by *Scott Clark, Jay Culclasure,
Kim Kent, and Meredith Partridge*

Senior Highs (Youth Suite – Game Room side)

Wired Word

Led by *Ben Alexander, Kelley Barnhardt,
Kim DuBose, and Kate Weaver Patterson*

One Adult Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)

Led by *Leigh Stuckey*

*We Believe What?: An Introduction
to Christian Doctrine*

To be alive today is to be a theologian. Each of us has a unique paradigm through which we understand God, one another, creation, and the church. Not quite sure if you qualify? Or wondering what the Presbyterian Church thinks about it all? Join us for this brief on Reformed Christian Doctrine. We'll delve into questions around predestination, revelation, authority, providence, and sin. "Come," as God says to the prophet Isaiah, "let us argue it out!"

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