



World Communion Sunday

Preparation for **Worship**

“Are there in us, in you and me now, that recklessness of the loving heart, that wild courage, that crazy gladness in the face of darkness and death, that shuddering faithfulness even unto the end of the world, through which the new things can come to pass?”

Frederick Buechner

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.

Minute for Stewardship

Tom Vanderbloemen

Prelude Improvisation on THAXTED

Smith

Introit “Many Will Come”

Keesecker

* Call to Worship

Leader: Many will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.

People: God’s mercy reaches to us both near and far, in abundant fields and rocky soil.

Leader: For the Lord is good; God’s love is eternal, and God’s faithfulness has no end.

People: Blessed are they who will eat bread in the kingdom of God.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn No. 327 “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty and everlasting God, we know that we have been too careful with the gospel.

Our fears have gotten the better of our faith.

We have remained cautious with our love, restrained with our hope, and stingy with your grace.

Forgive us for what we have failed to do with the gifts you have given us.

Give us courage to look honestly at our lives, so that we would put down our defenses and cast aside our need for control.

Grant us new eyes to see the world.

By the power of your Spirit, help us grow in generosity and become witnesses to your peace, through Jesus Christ our 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.

Children in K5-1st grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson, *Isaiah 55:10-11*

p. 598

Gospel Lesson, *Mark 4:1-9*

p. 815

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“God Takes the Enneagram”

Responding to **God’s Word**

* Affirmation of Faith, *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory “Come Before the Table” Marrolli

* 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. 341 “O God, Show Mercy to Us” THAXTED

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response (11:15) “Hallelujah! Pelo tsa rona” South African trad.

* Postlude Toccata in E minor Pachelbel

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Liz Howell (9a), Catherine Blount (11:15a), *lay readers*

Coleman Kirven (9a), Laura Coker (11:15a), *head ushers*

Carl Muller, Brandon Coker, Caroline Clark,

Becky Warth, LeAnne White (9a), *greeters*

Toni Paylor, Lesley Usher, Neil Shurley,

Talitha Allen, Brian Blount (11:15a), *greeters*

Leenie Jones, Kate Merrell (9a), Madeline Hardaway, Ellen Reynolds (11:15a), *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.

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.

NURSERY

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.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

As a congregation that prays with and for one another, Westminster invites you to share your prayer requests using the cards located in the Ritual of Friendship pad at the end of each pew. You may complete a card and leave it in the offering plate so that the pastors and/or prayer chain team may pray for you. If you wish to join the prayer chain, please indicate that on your card.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESSING OFFERING

This Sunday, October 3, we will be taking our annual Peace & Global Witnessing Offering. These gifts enable the PC(USA) to promote economic and social peace all over the world. Twenty-five percent of the offering stays at Westminster for local peacemaking missions. Special envelopes for your contributions have been included in your mailed Harbinger this week.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

In Memoriam

Patsy Taylor
(2/11/1939 - 9/25/2021)

*“I am the resurrection and the life.”
- John 11:25*

We Remember in Prayer

The family of Patsy Taylor

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Children and youth ages 5K-grade 12 are invited to register for the church basketball season. Online player registration opened Monday, September 13 and continues through Sunday, October 10. The Session will determine any appropriate pandemic precautions and protocols. WPC members interested in being a coach or assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686). Registration may be accessed on the church's website at wpc-online.org/events_registration/youth_basketball/.

WPC BOOK CLUB:

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, October 5, at 7p at McAlister's Deli (Augusta St.). Arrive at 6:30p if you want to have dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Beth Holladay-Edwards will lead the discussion of *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

It's that time of year again when we are looking for volunteers to write a short devotional to be included in the 2021 Advent Devotions series. Email Josie Williams (josiegwilliams07@gmail.com) if you would be willing to help with this.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CHILI COOK-OFF

Join your church family for the 2021 Women of Westminister Chili Cook-Off at 12:30p today, October 3, in the Green Lot.

The lunch menu includes a baked potato bar, salad bar, and dessert. The cost is \$7 per adult and \$3.50 per child (ages 3-11). You may also purchase taste cards so you can judge fellow WPC members as they compete for coveted awards. And, don't forget your raffle tickets for the Ultimate Fall Package, which is filled with all sorts of goodies to help celebrate the fall season. (You do not have to be present to win.) All are welcome, regardless of whether you have registered. All proceeds will support the Scholarship Fund.

Got a mean chili recipe? Grab a team and enter the cook-off! The entry fee is \$25 per team, which benefits the Scholarship Fund. Teams will be responsible for providing their famous chili and table decorations. We will provide taste cups and spoons. Awards will be given in many different categories including People's Choice, Most Unusual, Spiciest, and Most Creative Themed Table. Enter the cook-off at <https://wpc-online.org/women-of-westminster-chili-cook-off-entry/>.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminister fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined), will meet Saturday, October 16, at 6:30p at the home of Mary Jo & Wade Franks (1707 N Main St, Greenville). Watch your e-mail for more information or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

CONNECTIONS

Connections lunch group will meet Sunday, October 17 at 12:45p at The Iron Hill Brewery (741 Haywood Rd). A table on their patio has been reserved for us. Please RSVP by Friday, October 15 with Ruth Johnston (201-6117 or ruthjohnst51@gmail.com). Newcomers are always welcome!

NEEDLE ARTS GROUP

The Needle Arts Group will meet Wednesday, October 6, at 6:30p in the Entrance Pavillion. Leader: Terry Gentry (tmgentry@charter.net).

THE HARBINGER
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2310 Augusta Street
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
October 3 - 10, 2021

Sunday, October 3

World Communion Sunday

- 9:00a Worship Service w/communion
Membership Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:15 Worship Service w/communion
- 12:30p Women of Westminster
Chili Cook-Off in Green Lot
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal
Senior High Youth Group

Tuesday, October 5

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

Wednesday, October 6

- 9:30a Weekday Chapel
- 9:45 Weekday Chapel
- 10:00 Weekday Chapel
- 2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool
- 2:45 It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 6:00 JustFaith Meeting
- 6:30 Needle Arts Group
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 7

- 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 10

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Congregational Meeting
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
Women of Westminster
Planning Meeting
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Meredith Gower

The word “home” has taken on a whole new meaning these past 20 months, hasn't it? Pre-pandemic, I had a pretty rosy view of our home. Sure, it was chaotic and messy at times with two young kids, but we bopped through life in a singsong rhythm out of our comfortable brick bungalow overlooking Croft Park. It was our cozy refuge, our basecamp for work and play, and our merry, functioning shelter.

But then came 2020 and all its surprises, which upended our regular routines and forced us inside. As we stared at the locked gates of the park, feelings of worry, exhaustion, and boredom trickled in, and our house gradually began to feel more like a prison. And me? Well, I was prisoner #1—arrested by the demands of e-learning, my job, and the daily tasks of cooking and cleaning. Even with a steady, supportive partner like Brad, and smiling sons who love to help, there were more than a couple of moments when I was ready to huff and puff and blow my own house down in one breath, Big Bad Wolf style.

Luckily, I did not self-destruct. Drinking in the wisdom and encouraging words of family members, mom friends, teachers, colleagues, ministers on the screen, healthcare professionals on the news, and even masked strangers in the grocery store, I somehow managed a course-correction. Am I still course-correcting? Yes. Did all of my anxieties about the future immediately dissolve? No. I'm still actively gripping the wheel—and still eyeing the chipped paint on the baseboards caused by flying Hot Wheels cars. But burdens have gradually lifted, a new reality has settled in, and my vision of our home has evolved. It still functions in the same ways it did before, but now, in addition, it is a physical reminder of our perseverance, of overcoming challenge and emerging stronger.

Through a similar lens, it's eye-opening to reflect on how our collective view of our church home has changed, too. We can all remember the rosy past, when we could show up at church any old Sunday; when we could hug friends outside Sunday School classrooms and hold each other's babies in the nursery; when we could smile, bare faced, to neighbors as we sat shoulder-to-shoulder under arched beams. Oh, how we enjoyed those easily accessible opportunities for worship and fellowship before March 2020.

When the doors to our favorite sacred place had to be shut, our carefree church-going habits were challenged like never before. Feeling despondent and heartsick, some of us threw up our hands and cried, “Well there goes that, you can't have church without a church!”

Thank goodness our creative church leaders, dedicated staff, and determined fellow worshippers did not succumb to that line of thinking. At every critical turn in this pandemic era, they have thoughtfully and artfully demonstrated that our church, its customs, and its people can evolve—and yet still feel like the home we've always loved.

So, whether you bow your head and sing familiar hymns from the walnut pews or from your couch this week, let us all take time to pause and fully appreciate the rhythms of worship we once took for granted. Let's renew our investment in our thriving church home, which still stands, so tall and strong, as a beautiful example of resilience against the backdrop of a changing world.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 10TH:

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 10th, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to elect this year's Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet to consider names of WPC members to serve as elders on the Session, class of 2025.

The Session presents the following slate for election to the Nominating Committee:

Neil Shurley (chair, Session member)	Roxanne Cromartie
Mae Todd Mullins (Session member)	Elizabeth McElveen
Keith Stevenson (Session member)	Eric McGregor
Becky Warth (Session member)	Parks McLeod
	Tiffany Williams

NEW MEMBERS

Last Sunday, we welcomed the following new members into our fellowship:

- Sarah Brady and Cody Clunan joined by reaffirmation of faith.
- Dallas & Erin Eckard joined by transfer from Church of the Cross, Bluffton, SC. They have a son, Henry (5) and a daughter, Charlotte (2).
- Randall & Kate Fowler joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have a son, Milo (9).
- Jackie Fryt joined by transfer from Westminster Presbyterian, Durham, NC.
- Bob & Do Kaiser joined by transfer from Balmoral Presbyterian, Memphis, TN.
- Rosemary Hughes joined by transfer from Buncombe Street United Methodist, Greenville. Rosemary and her husband, Joe, have a daughter, Amelia (12).
- John McCarthy joined by transfer from Providence Presbyterian, Fairfax, VA.
- Kristin Timmerman joined by reaffirmation of faith. She has a son, Tatum (2).

THANK YOU, IHN VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all who provided meals, extended hospitality, stayed overnight, and set up for Interfaith Hospitality Network. WPC was the first church to host families experiencing homelessness since the pandemic started. Save the date for our next host week: December 5-12.

INSTALLATION OF THE REVEREND JULIA WATKINS

The Reverend Julia Watkins will be installed as our Associate Pastor for Mission and Congregational Life on Sunday, October 17, at our 11:15a worship service.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

On Sunday, October 17, there will be no Sunday School. Between 10-11a, you are invited to come by the Green Lot for a time of fellowship and (weather permitting) donuts outside! Come visit with friends, meet new WPC members, and celebrate Julia's installation as our Associate Pastor for Mission and Congregational Life.

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