



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“God is not looking for warm bodies. God is looking for wedding guests, who will rise to the occasion of honoring the son. We can do that in shorts and running shoes, I think, as well as we can do it in suits and high heels, because our wedding robes are not made out of denim or silk. They are made from the whole fabric of our lives, using patterns God has given us — patterns of justice, forgiveness, loving-kindness, peace. When we stitch them up and put them on we are gorgeous, absolutely gorgeous. I don’t know why we would want to wear anything else, especially if we want to be ready for a wedding whenever the invitation comes.”

Barbara Brown Taylor, “Wedding Dress”

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

Bryan Kelley

Prelude

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

arr. Forrest

* Call to Worship

from Isaiah 25

Leader: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines...

People: **And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever.**

Leader: Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces... for the Lord has spoken.

People: **It will be said on that day, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us... let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 32

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ELLACOMBE

* Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be.

You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy help us to live in the light, and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

Old Testament Lesson, *Ecclesiastes 8:14-15*

p. 541

New Testament Lesson, *Matthew 22:1-13*

p. 803

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Dress For the Job You Want”

Responding to **God’s Word**

* Affirmation of Faith, *Confession of 1967 9.17*

God has created humans for a personal relation with himself that humanity may respond to the love of the Creator.

God has created male and female and given them a life which proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations.

God has endowed humanity with capacities to make the world serve God’s needs and to enjoy its good things.

Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

Humanity is free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare,

to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

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

"For Everyone Born"

arr. Trenney

* 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. 766 "The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound"

McKEE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

"Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

arr. L. Smith

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Mark Kemp, ^(9a) *tenor*

Christopher Hutton, ^(11:15a) *cellist*, Katie Knauer, ^(11:15a) *soprano*

Joey Fievet ^(9a), Sam White, Jr. ^(11:15a), *lay readers*

Brandon Coker ^(9a), Corey Sanders ^(11:15a), *head ushers*

Sarah Beasley, Lesley Usher, Becky Warth,

Meg McKnight, Durden Collins ^(9a), *greeters*

LeAnne White, Russ Williams, Talitha Allen,

Laura Sanders, Michael Dixon ^(11:15a), *greeters*

Mary Evans Howayeck, Graham Wallner ^(9a),

Capitola Riley, Lillian Threatt ^(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.

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 (weather permitting) for a time of fellowship and donuts outside! Come visit with friends, reconnect with WPC members, and celebrate Julia’s installation as our Associate Pastor for Mission and Congregational Life.

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.

In Memoriam

Carolyn Heaton (9/14/1941 - 10/2/2021)

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

We Remember in Prayer

The family of Carolyn Heaton

Jeff Reynolds on the death of his father, Jay Reynolds, in Greenville - 10/4/2021.

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/.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster 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!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, OCTOBER 10TH:

The Session has called a congregational meeting for this 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)
Mae Todd Mullins (Session member)
Keith Stevenson (Session member)
Becky Warth (Session member)

Roxanne Cromartie
Elizabeth McElveen
Eric McGregor
Parks McLeod
Tiffany Williams

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!

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

Tuesday, October 12

- **Circle #3**, in the WPC Green Lot at 2p. Dee Malone, chair (dee05m@gmail.com). If rain, a Zoom meeting will take place.
- **Circle #7**, at the home of Terri LeGrand at 6:30p. Talitha Allen, chair (best29617@bellsouth.net).

Wednesday, October 13

- **Circle #6**, at the home of Liz Einstein at 9:30a. Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) co-chairs.

THIRD GRADE MILESTONE

On Sunday, October 24, we will present Bibles to our third graders at our 11:15 a.m. worship service. Plan now to join us.

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
October 10 - 17, 2021

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
6:00 All Youth Pizza in Green Lot

Tuesday, October 12

12:00p Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
2:00 Circle 3 Meeting
6:30 Circle 7 Meeting

Wednesday, October 13

9:30a Circle 6 Meeting
2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool
2:45 It's Elementary
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
6:00 JustFaith Meeting

Sunday, October 17

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Reception in Green Lot (No Sunday School)
11:15 Worship Service
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
12:45 Connections Group Meeting

TRICK OR TREAT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On Thursday, October 28, our children will bring joy to residents at the Westminster Retirement Home in a Halloween costume parade. We will meet at the Sanctuary Bell Tower to line up and walk over together at 5p. The parade will go through the parking lot and children will be able to pick up treat bags to take home. Please sign up on the church website under events registration. Contact Associate Pastor Lauren Slingerland (lslingerland@wpc-online.org) for more information.

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Ellie DuBose

After more than a year of life in a pandemic, it can feel strange to begin old habits anew. For me, the news that the church would be reopening came not only with feelings of relief and joy, but also some guilt and hesitation. I will admit that I had not been the most consistent with watching the online worship services. Furthermore, I wanted to be sure that if I was going to be sitting in the congregation once again that I could do so without jeopardizing the safety of those around me. So despite my excitement to return to the sanctuary, I could not shake a sense of anxiety about the whole thing.

When I first stepped into the church after over a year away, all my worries quickly subsided. I was greeted by faces I hadn't seen for months, and I even found that my family's old pew was just the same as how we had last seen it. I left church that morning with a newfound sense of gratefulness and grace. My entire experience of returning to Westminster might well be described by today's scripture in the call to worship. In the passage, God welcomes us into his home after a time of great strife with open arms:

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever.”

This year's stewardship theme is “Home,” and I can hardly imagine a better place to call mine. Though I know there will be more times in my life when I feel lonely or without hope, I can trust that I will always have this community to welcome me back home.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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