



Second Sunday after Epiphany

Preparation for **Worship**

“...there is no road to faith or discipleship...only obedience to the call of Jesus. And what does the text inform us about the content of discipleship? Follow me, run along behind me! That is all. To follow in his steps is something which is void of all content. It gives us no intelligible programme for a way of life, no goal or ideal to strive after. It is not a cause which human calculation might deem worthy of our devotion...When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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 "God of Grace and God of Glory" Manz

Introit 11:15a "Surely" Langston

* Call to Worship Psalm 36:5-7, 9

Leader: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
People: **Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep.**
Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
People: **For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" St. DENIO

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we know that we often fear the wrong things. We are scared of change, because we love the illusion of control. We are scared of receiving help, because we love the illusion of self-sufficiency. We are scared of your grace, because we love the illusion that we have not done anything wrong. Forgive us, strengthen us, and give us courage for our journey. Help us to follow where Christ calls us, without delay or distraction. Help us to love the people Christ asks us to love, without evasion or exception. It is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

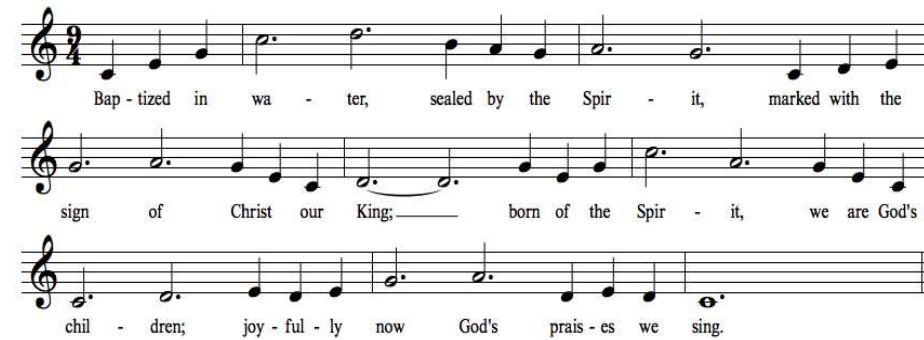
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

* 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism Lennon Gray Dailey-Mattison (11:15a)

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, *Jeremiah 1:4-10* p. 609

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

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Go Away"

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 11:15a "How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord" Parry

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 "Jesus Calls Us" Patterson

* 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. 718 "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" BOURBON

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response (11:15a) "Go Out with Joy" Davis

* Postlude "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" arr. Limbaugh

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Mary Ashmore, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Les Hicken, *clarinetist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Lauren Doar (9a), Fred Carpenter (11:15a), *lay readers*

Tim Reed (9a), Brandt Givens (11:15a), *head ushers*

Lisa Mangione, Michael Dixon, Laura Sanders,

Scott Clark, Brandon Coker (9a), *greeters*

Sarah Beasley, Ben Edwards, Ashley Gettys,

Anna Hanor, Susan Jones (11:15a), *greeters*

Madeline Hardaway (9a), Capitola Riley (11:15a), *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning at the 11:15a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship Lennon Gray Dailey-Mattison, daughter of Diana Dailey & Libba Mattison.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Ruthie Campbell Reid*, to Allen & Katie Reid on Saturday, November 27, 2021.

In Memoriam

Catherine Davis Raney (10/6/1968 - 1/9/2022)

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

We Remember in Prayer

The family of Renie Raney

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

Wednesday, January 19

- **Circle #7**, 6p at home of Gaye Sprague (10 Grey St., 29605)
Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

HIKING GROUP

Friday, January 21

The Hiking Group's next hike will be the Big Rock Mountain Trail in the Nine Times Preserve. Contact Hike Leader, Donn James (donnandsalliejames@gmail.com), if interested.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined) – will meet on Friday, January 21, at 7p at the home of Amy Grace (8 Bachman Ct). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's website ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
WOMEN'S RETREAT

All women are invited to join Women of Westminster at Montreat for their annual retreat:

February, 25-27, 2022

Register online at www.wpc-online.org.

OPEN HEARTS • Caring@WPC

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 MINDS • Education@WPC

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Divine Interventions:
Creation and (re)Creation in Genesis
Room 209

Explore Scripture's earliest and most misunderstood stories in a new adult Sunday School class that began January 2. Over the course of four weeks we will study the two accounts of creation, the story of the fall, the great flood, and the tower of Babel. Led by Associate Pastor Leigh Stuckey, streaming at wpc-online.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN K4-5TH GRADES:

Sunday School for children in K4-5th grades meets in the following rooms during the Sunday School hour:

4K/5K	Room 104
1st/2nd grade	Room 107
3rd/5th grade	Room 125

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class of 2022 (non-confirmed youth ages 9th grade and older) will have their first class session on Sunday, January 23, from 10-11:10a in Room 309. We ask the entire congregation to please keep this class in your prayers and if you would like more information, please contact Wendy Bagley or Mary Kathleen Duncan.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, January 10, we have received \$2,271,097 in pledges toward our 2022 budget goal of \$2,520,968.

For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Sherri Owens, at sherri@wpc-online.org.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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(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.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 16 - 23, 2022

Sunday, January 16

Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
12:45p	Stated Session Meeting (Zoom)

Monday, January 17

Weekday School Closed

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 18

12:00p	AI-Anon Group Meeting
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Wednesday, January 19

9:30a	Weekday School Chapel
9:45	Weekday School Chapel
10:00	Weekday School Chapel
2:15p	WPC Kids Afterschool
2:45	It's Elementary
4:30	Junior & Senior Choristers
6:00	Circle #7 Meeting
7:00	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 21

8:00a	Hiking Group
7:00p	Lightly Seasoned Group

Sunday, January 23

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:00a	Worship Service 75th Anniversary Committee Meeting Education Committee Meeting
10:00	Sunday School Confirmation Class Meeting
10:55	Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
2:00p	New Elder Training Class
5:00	Combined Youth Group
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00	Youth Dinner
6:30	Middler Choir Rehearsal

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIV | January 16, 2022 | No. 37

From the Pews, Russ Williams

As much as we would like to emphasize that this is a month of new beginnings and new opportunities as we enter 2022, I for one, must confess that I am frustrated and weary. Just when we thought we were on the final page of the "test," the instructor handed us a new exam booklet! Again, we find ourselves faced with the mask or unmask debate, quarantine restrictions, delays and cancellation of events, travel issues and the like. More folks in the hospital and more concerns about our children suffering from educational and social delays. Worries about the impact of continued isolation on elderly parents and the mentally ill. Global economic strains. The list of concerns goes on and on! The "normal" challenges of life seem to be accentuated by the added worry and interference we are experiencing during this, the Covid era! The word "weary" is probably not strong enough!

Our New Testament scripture for today, Luke 5:1-11, tells of the weariness, frustration and fatigue experienced by Simon Peter and his fellow fishermen after a long night on the Sea of Galilee with not a single fish to show for their efforts. Imagine their irritation as they are approached by Jesus and told to relaunch their boat and recast their nets! Just as they are completing the necessary task of cleaning their equipment before heading home, this teacher/rabbi is telling the professionals to return to work!

This frustration turns to amazement as the fishermen experience a massive catch that strains their nets and overloads their two small vessels. How can they make an unprecedented haul of fish in a spot that was hopelessly unproductive the night before? Simon Peter responds to this shocking outcome by expressing his own unholiness, confessing that his sinfulness and weary spirit make him unworthy of this miraculous level of attention. As Peter, James and John bring their boats to shore, they are so overwhelmed with astonishment at this evidence of Jesus' power and godliness, they leave their gear and their worldly profession to join Jesus as "catchers of men."

What does this mean for us in this era of uncertainty and frustration? Surely, we aren't all to abandon our current lives to proceed into the mission field? While this might be the case for some, maybe we should recognize that Jesus is calling all of us to service in different ways. We are all called to his service, even more so during times of crisis and frustration. During this period of "masking," will our frustration give way to a recognition of our opportunity to "unmask" our true desires to live and act as his disciples by living as Christians, helping the less fortunate and being true followers? Perhaps we should spend some time in reflection to identify those things that we need to leave behind to more closely walk with Jesus?

I pray for a continued recognition of his enduring and consistent presence in our lives. The coming year could include more of the same Covid related fatigue and frustration as the last two. However, we should rejoice in the opportunity that we have to "unmask" and grow in witness and service in our community of faith and beyond.

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