



Third Sunday after Epiphany

Preparation for **Worship**

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 "Christians, We Have Met to Worship" arr. Thompson

Introit 11:15a "Surely" Langston

* Call to Worship Ephesians 2:8-10

Leader: By grace you have been saved through faith.
People: **And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.**
Leader: It is not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
People: **For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 415 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" RESTORATION

* Prayer of Confession

Holy and gracious God, grant us the gift of clarity.
Help us to see our sin clearly,
so that we may confess it before you and one another.
Help us to see our past clearly,
so that we might make amends
where we have hurt one another.
Help us to see our stubbornness clearly,
so that we would change and live as new people in Christ.
Help us to see our future clearly,
so that we would trust in the unshakable power
of your goodness and grace.
Mold us into your faithful body, so that when others see us,
they would see the living Christ and his love. 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 11:15a

Lauren Joyce Hood

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

Epistle Lesson, *Romans 3:21-25a*

p. 916

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 5:27-32*

p. 837

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

Sermon "No Resume Required"

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

"God of Compassion"

Moment

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

"Amazing Grace"

McCutchen

* 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. 435

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

IN BABILONE

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response 11:15a

"Go Out with Joy"

Davis

* Postlude

"Amazing Grace"

arr. Williams

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Amos Workman (9a), Julia Watkins (11:15a), *liturgists*

Caroline Clark, *sponsor*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Diana Dailey, soloist (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Ginny Reed (9a), Gena Runnion (11:15a), *lay readers*

Coleman Kirven (9a), Rance Bryan (11:15a), *head ushers*

Brian Blount, Kevin Lancaster, Lisa Mangione,

Rob Morgan, Carl Muller (9a), *greeters*

Durden Collins, Mary Ashmore, Michael Dixon,

Jeff Beck, Emily Busby (11:15a), *greeters*

Pearson Mullins, Elizabeth Todd Mullins (9a), Daniel Knauer (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 Lauren Joyce Hood.

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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.

Beginning February 6

**Welcome the Stranger: Justice,
Compassion, and Truth in the
Immigration Debate**
Room 212

Examine the complex root causes and potential solutions for immigration through a biblical, historical, and political lens. This discussion-based class is offered in partnership with World Relief, a global Christian humanitarian organization whose mission is to empower the local church to serve the most vulnerable, specifically refugees and other immigrants. The class will culminate with opportunities to volunteer in service of refugees in and around Greenville.

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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.

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 this 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.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, February 13, 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.

WPC BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 1, at 7p at McAlister's Deli (1708B Augusta St.). Arrive at 6:30p if you want to have dinner and fellowship before the meeting. Ruth Johnston will lead the discussion of *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. Join us! New attendees are always welcome.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 23 - 30, 2022

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	Middler Youth Group
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:30	Middler Choir Rehearsal Senior High Youth Group

Tuesday, January 25

12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting

Wednesday, January 26

1:00p	Luncheon Group by Zoom
2:15	WPC Kids Afterschool
2:45	It's Elementary
4:30	Junior & Senior Choristers
7:00	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 30

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
5:00p	Middler Youth Group
5:15	Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:30	Middler Choir Rehearsal Senior High Youth Group

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2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, January 18, we have received \$2,291,597 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.

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Sarah Brice

James and I happen to love visiting the Big Apple. Could it be that part of our fascination lies in the contrast between the sheer size of New York City and our two tiny hometowns, McCormick and Due West, respectively? Whatever the reason, we travel to NYC for at least four weeks out of most years, savoring the vast variety the city has to offer. While there, we visit museums for culture, walk miles and miles for exercise and eat at many fine restaurants, always searching for the perfect carrot cake.

In 2018, we attended a memorable performance at the 92nd Street Y—a reenactment of singer Bobby Darin's fascinating brief life. Named at birth Walden Robert Cassotto, he happened to observe a Chinese restaurant sign with the first three letters burned out (MAN) and adopted the surname "Darin" because of it. A transformed persona was born.

Our scripture passage for today, Luke 5: 27-32 tells of another name change: Levi, the hated tax collector, later becomes known as Matthew. This is the same beloved Matthew who wrote the first Gospel, the first book in the New Testament, which traces the life of Jesus, from his miraculous birth to his despairing death to his triumphal resurrection. Just how did Levi's transformation take place? It seems that his early interaction with Jesus served as the pivotal and profound event in his life. According to verse 27, Jesus simply said to him, "Follow me." Then Levi left everything, and rose and followed him, embodying Dietrich Bonhoeffer's statement that "there is no road to faith or discipleship... only obedience to the call of Jesus." That is exactly what Levi/Matthew did—he adopted a complete lifestyle change, giving up the great riches of being a tax collector to become one of the disciples. One wonders whether Levi might have been a part of the large crowds following Jesus, thereby seeing the miracles Jesus performed and hearing the message he taught about the love of God, forgiveness, and eternal life, thus choosing to embrace the life of a disciple.

In calling Levi, a tax collector, to follow him, Jesus went against cultural stigmas of his day, not caring that Levi was viewed as a wretched sinner and, as a tax collector, despised by most Jews. As we see in verse 30, the Pharisees and their scribes "murmured against" both Jesus and his disciples. They could not believe that a purportedly holy man, a Rabbi (teacher), would associate with such a vile sinner. Thankfully for all of us, Jesus states that he did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance. This radical shift from what was expected defines the nature of Christianity—and compels us followers to do the unexpected. We are to love and embrace those who might be considered outside the boundaries of God's love, doing as Jesus did. Just like Bobby Darin's 1967 album title, Jesus turned things "Inside Out" --what an example to follow!

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