



Fourth 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 St. DENIO

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

* 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.**

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson I, Luke 4:14-30 p. 835

Gospel Lesson II, 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*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Les Hicken, *clarinetist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Clair Ray (9a), Katherine Mattice (11:15a), *lay readers*

Tim Reed (9a), Emily Busby (11:15a), *head ushers*

Russ Williams, Toni Paylor, Neil Shurley,

Keith Stevenson, Lesley Usher, (9a), *greeters*

Kate Patterson, Hastings Blumer, Jay Culclasure,

Ross Glidewell, Jara Jones, (11:15a), *greeters*

Emmie Paradise (9a), Grier Clark, Lillian Threatt (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.

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:
(available to stream at wpc-online.org)

**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 concludes January 30. 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

Abraham: A Life of Faith
Room 209

Building on the earliest stories of Genesis, we will now turn our focus to Father Abraham – an iconic ancestor of three faiths, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Themes of call and covenant, critical to Protestant faith and Jewish identity, will be explored, alongside a close reading of more difficult stories: Hagar and Ishmael, Sodom and Gomorah, the binding of Isaac, and Abraham's children.

*Led by Associate Pastor
Leigh Stuckey*

**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.

*Led by Walter Hinton
and Nikki Grumbine*

**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/4th/5th grade	Room 125

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.

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THE HARBINGER

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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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 30 - February 6, 2022

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

Monday, January 31

7:00p Youth Parent Workshop

Tuesday, February 1

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

Wednesday, February 2

2:15	WPC Kids Afterschool
2:45	It's Elementary
4:30	Junior & Senior Choristers

Sunday, February 6

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Youth Sunday

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

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2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, January 24, we have received \$2,340,377 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

VOLUME LXXIV | January 30, 2022 | No. 39

From the Pews, Bill Ballinger

A couple of weeks ago, Ben referenced the Disney film *Inside Out* in his sermon. Over the weekend of the recent winter storm, I watched (for the first time actually) another Disney movie, *Frozen*. It's been almost ten years since its release, but given the weekend forecast, it felt appropriate. It also helped that the pendulous interest of our three-year-old son was currently into it as well. Since I might be the last person on the planet to watch *Frozen*, I don't think I'm spoiling anything for anyone when I summarize the film. Queen Elsa possesses powers that allow for her to manipulate ice and snow. This power was kept secret from her kingdom by her parents, for her safety. Her powers are eventually found out, and Elsa is rejected by her own kingdom, her own people. Elsa flees her kingdom, leaving it in a perpetual ice age. Elsa's sister, Anna, seeks Elsa out but is ultimately rejected by her sister's efforts to bring her home. Despite each being rejected at some point in their life, it's their love and dedication for one another, as well as their commitment to what they know is true, that ultimately saves each of them, as well as their kingdom.

Jesus was no stranger to rejection. Most notably, he was denied three times on the evening of his crucifixion. Earlier in his ministry though, Christ was rejected in his own hometown by his own people. Luke 4:14-30 tells of "The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth."

Jesus grew up in the small village of Nazareth. For hundreds of years, the Jewish people have read the following message of Isaiah:

18. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19. to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

One day, Jesus goes to the synagogue on the sabbath, "as was his custom," and then after reading Isaiah's prophecy, he tells those in attendance, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The people of Nazareth, Jesus's own townspeople and friends, not only reject this claim (in anger actually), they reject him. They drove Jesus out of town, and nearly to his death. In response to this rejection, Jesus simply continues to Capernaum and continues his ministry, as the Son of God and our savior.

Rejection is a normal part of life. It hurts, and is difficult at times to manage and overcome. Responses can include anger, sadness, depression, and anxiety. In response to rejection, one could simply quit. Another coping alternative is allowing the rejection to strengthen your resiliency and continue on. Can you imagine if Jesus had simply quit when his hometown rejected his proclamation that he was the one? As Christians we are all (literally) blessed that Jesus continued his ministry despite his rejection in Nazareth. Elsa and Anna's love for one another, despite rejection, saved their kingdom. Jesus's love for us and commitment to us, despite rejection, in addition to our belief in him, preserves our place in his.

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