



Third Sunday in Lent

Preparation for **Worship**

Disturb us, O Lord when we are too well-pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little, because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, O Lord when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas where storms show Thy mastery, where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow. Amen.

Desmond Tutu

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 "O, the Deep Deep Love of Jesus" arr. Page

Introit "Surely" Langston

* Call to Worship Psalm 63:1, 3-4

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.
People: **My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

People: **So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn No. 687 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" St. ANNE

* Prayer of Confession

Merciful and Mighty God, we know that we have taken too much for granted.

We see life as something we have achieved, instead of your precious gift.

We become impatient when our body fails us, when control eludes us,

and when the future does not look like what we imagined it should be.

Forgive us, O God, for our foolish and self-centered hearts.

Grant us the courage to prioritize that which is important to you: replacing despair with hope,

fighting fear with faith,

and embodying Christ's love in every encounter.

We ask it all in Jesus' holy name. 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 ^{9a}
 11:15a

Virginia Severs Howell
 Lennon Gray Dailey-Mattison

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, *Isaiah 55:3-9* p. 598
 Gospel Lesson, *Luke 13:6-9* p. 848

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "What Time Is It?"

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.

Choral Call to Prayer "O God, You Are My God Alone" Beall

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 "Come, Ye Disconsolate" Johnson

* 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. 376 "When All Is Ended" YOGANANDA
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Choral Response 11:15a "Our God, Our Help" ST. ANNE
- * Postlude Recessional of ST. ANNE Young

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Anna Hanor (9a), Mary Ashmore (11:15a), *sponsors*

Nancy Smith, *organist/pianist*

Sanctuary Choir Ensemble (9a)

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Susan McLeod (9a), Catherine Blount (11:15a), *lay readers*

Ted Gentry (9a), Brandon Coker (11:15a), *head ushers*

Anna Hanor, Susan Jones, Becky Warth,

Jara Jones, Laura Sanders, (9a), *greeters*

Scott Clark, Brandon Coker, Bob Dellert,

Talitha Allen, Sarah Beasley, (11:15a), *greeters*

Ellen Reynolds (9a), Cam Warren (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.

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.

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.

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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISMS

This morning at the 9a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship Virginia Severs Howell, daughter of George & Liz Howell.

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

OPEN HEARTS • Caring@WPC

Westminster has designated funds through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support partners on the ground in and around Ukraine. Additional offerings may be designated "Ukraine."

OPEN HEARTS • Connecting@WPC

JOIN WPC'S HOSPITALITY TEAM

Are you a "do-er" looking to connect with others while contributing to WPC's culture of welcome? Consider serving on the Hospitality Team! Hospitality Team participants will receive regular invitations to help with events like the basketball banquet, church suppers, and after-worship donuts. Contact Julia Watkins or write "Hospitality Team" on a Connection Card to get involved.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Gathering@WPC

LUNCHEON GROUP

HIKING GROUP

Friday, March 25

The Hiking Group's next hike will be Pinnacle Mountain and then a stop at Hagood Mill in Pickens. Contact Hike Leader, Anne Holleman (holl2759@att.net), if interested.

Friday, April 1

The Panthertown Valley hike has been rescheduled for this date. Contact Hike Leader, Durden Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com), if interested.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER UPCOMING EVENTS:

SPRING SOCIAL

All women of Westminster are invited to the home of Sallie White (50 Ridgeland Dr.) for a spring social on Thursday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring an appetizer to share; and if your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a dessert to share. There is no cost for the social, but we do ask that you sign up by Wednesday, March 30.

SPRING GATHERING LUNCHEON

Women and girls of Westminster are invited to the annual Spring Gathering Luncheon (formerly known as the Generations Banquet) at 12:30p on Sunday, April 10, in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we celebrate being together, enjoy lunch and a short program, and honor our Lifetime Achievement members! The cost for lunch is \$15 per person. A \$6 child's meal is available for children who are able to sit through the program. The nursery will be open for children ages three and younger. Reservations are required and need to be made by Wednesday, March 30.

Sign up for these events at www.wpc-online.org under *Upcoming Events*.

Easter Lilies/Memorials/Honorariums

Those desiring to remember loved ones during the Easter season may do so in three ways. Money may be given to purchase a lily for the sanctuary (\$15.00), or a contribution may be made to either the Endowment Fund or the Heritage Lecture Fund. Deadline is Wednesday, April 6.

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

Lilies x \$15.00 _____ Endowment. \$ _____ Heritage Lecture \$ _____

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 20 - 27, 2022

Sunday, March 20

Third Sunday in Lent

9:00a	Worship Service
10:00	Sunday School
10:55	Session Meeting
11:15	Worship Service
12:30p	Dominican Republic Surgical Trip Informational Meeting Stated Session Meeting

Monday, March 21

Weekday School Closed

Tuesday, March 22

Weekday School Closed

12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting

Wednesday, March 23

Weekday School Closed

12:00p Luncheon Group Meeting

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 24

Weekday School Closed

Friday, March 25

Weekday School Closed

9:00a Hiking Group

Sunday, March 27

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Sarah Matthews

The book of Isaiah has always been one of my favorite books of the Bible. I feel like I always find myself looking to the New Testament during quiet time. Somehow reading Jesus' words always feels easier to me. While the Old Testament can at times feel harder to read, the book of Isaiah is full of poems that sing of God's promises. Isaiah 55 picks up towards the end of the Babylonian exile. At this point, two generations of Jews had told stories of God's promises since being exiled from Jerusalem. By this time, Jerusalem was in ruins and, frankly, many of the Jews being called back to Jerusalem did not want to return. Isaiah 55 serves as an exhortation for the people to return to Jerusalem.

Today's scripture starts with an invitation to not just read the words of our Lord, but to also "incline your ear." What a novel thought! So many of us, myself included, conduct our quiet time simply by reading scriptures. Verse 3 reminds us how important it is to also lean in and listen for the Lord to speak. Do so, God says, and your "Soul shall live."

Moving onto verses 6 and 7, God reminds us of the value of repentance. Again, just like listening for the Lord to speak, what a lost discipline it is to seek forgiveness for wrongdoing. What sticks out to most in these two verses is the sense of urgency it conveys. "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon Him while He is near." Let us incline our hearts towards God and not forget the abundant mercy he has for us.

The final two verses remind us of God's glorious ways. These two verses highlight just how separate we are from God. "For as the heavens are higher than the Earth, my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Do not be discouraged by this, but rather in awe. We are invited into a relationship with a God this grand.

We have an invitation from the God of the universe to be wonderfully led, if we can just incline our ear to listen. We have an invitation to be forgiven, if we can just return to the Lord's feet and ask for mercy and forgiveness. While the distance between God and us is as far as the heavens from the earth, may we encourage each other day to day to draw closer to heaven and humbly seek him.

OPEN HEARTS • Serving@WPC

DR Surgical Trip

Interested in contributing to the health and wellness of our neighbors in the Dominican Republic? Consider signing up for WPC's DR Surgical Trip (October 22-29). Volunteers of all backgrounds needed, especially those with surgical/medical or Spanish-speaking skills. Attend an information session to learn more: March 20 and April 3 from 12:30-1pm in Room 212. Questions? Write "DR Trip" on your Connection Card.

IHN Update

Interfaith Hospitality Network, which has historically housed families with children experiencing homelessness in congregational buildings, including WPC's, is evaluating its programs in order to provide the best service possible. Following the pandemic, IHN served 95 individuals in 2021 and will continue housing families in hotels as emergency shelter through at least June. In a time of so much change and uncertainty, IHN's commitment to serving families with children experiencing homelessness is as deep as ever. Thank you for your support!

REBUILD UPSTATE

Join other WPC members on Saturday, April 23, to serve with Rebuild Upstate, a local non-profit that promotes affordable housing through home preservation and repair. All volunteers (ages 12+) welcome, whether you've never swung a hammer or are a construction pro. Contact Julia Watkins or write "Rebuild Upstate" on your Connection Card.

CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL JOB FAIR - 2022

Are you an employer or connected to potential employers? You can help facilitate a Carolina High School job fair on April 27th. We are in need of employers as well as volunteers willing to help contact participants. Please contact Paul O'Neal at pauloneal@aol.com for more information.



SUPPERS WITH SEVEN APRIL – MAY 2022

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to think about getting out and doing things. What about enjoying meals with other Westminster members? "Suppers With Seven" is seven (or so) persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals at a time convenient to the group. It is a great way to establish or renew relationships with other Westminster members. To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Suppers With Seven page. Or, if you'd like someone to contact you, write "Suppers with 7" on your Connection Card. *The deadline to sign up is Monday, March 21.*

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check as many as apply:

_____ I/We would be willing to host a first gathering of seven or so people.

_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering, but would consider a subsequent one.

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**HOLY WEEK AT WESTMINSTER
APRIL 10-17, 2022****PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10**

Worship at 9a & 11:15a
Sunday School at 10a
Seder Meal (sign up required) at 6p

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Worship with Communion at 6:30

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Gospel & Blues Service at noon

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Worship at 9a & 11:15a
Fellowship with donuts at 10a

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: MARCH 20-APRIL 10**No Place Like Home: Housing Instability in our Backyard**

Room 209
(streaming at wpc-online.org)

Greenville is an attractive place to live, but it's not yet a place where everyone is at home. This class will explore experiences related to housing instability, from chronic homelessness to home ownership, and share some of the ways Westminster and our community partners are engaging.

Leaders: Local non-profit leaders and Westminster Associate for Outreach and Congregational Life, Julia Watkins

- Week 1: Intro to Homelessness (GHA)
- Week 2: Transitional Housing (Soteria)
- Week 3: Homelessness, Housing, and Self Sufficiency (United Ministries)
- Week 4: Home Preservation/Ownership (Habitat for Humanity)

Dangerous Dialogues: Atheist and Christian Perspectives on God

Room 212

This course will look at how we "know" God exists, atheist perspectives on why they "know" God does not exist, and how we might achieve a respectful dialog with atheists and agnostics (and perhaps convince them that our faith is not, as Richard Dawkins terms it, "delusional").

- Week 1: Foundations: Faith, Reason, and Knowledge
- Week 2: "Proofs" of God's Existence:
Theistic Perspectives and Atheist Responses
- Week 3: "Proofs of the God's Nonexistence":
Atheist perspectives and Theistic Responses
- Week 4: Arguments for a Belief in God

John MacCarthy has had a varied career in physics and is presently a member of the Wofford Physics Department. His work has been diverse, including systems engineering, industry, and governmental advisory roles. John has his Ph. D. from Notre Dame and is interested in the philosophy of science, AI, systems engineering, and climate change.

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