



Third Sunday of Easter

Music Sunday

Preparation for **Worship**

Having reached the end of the beatitudes, we naturally ask if there is any place of this earth for the community which they describe. Clearly, there is one place, and only one, and that is where the poorest, meekest, and most sorely tried of all is to be found – on the cross at Golgotha. The fellowship of the beatitudes is the fellowship of the Crucified. With him it has lost all, and with him it has found all. From the cross there comes the call ‘blessed, blessed.’”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Gathering and Preparing for **God’s Word**

Welcome

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Recognition of Nancy Smith

Announcements

Prelude “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” Sikes

* Call to Worship

Leader: We are called to follow -
to walk in the way of justice and righteousness.

**People: We are called to serve -
to be Christ with and for one another.**

Leader: We are called to shine -
to be beacons of hope and witness to truth.

**People: Come, you who are claimed as children of God,
salt of the earth and light of the world.**

All: Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise #104 VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN
“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

* Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you have created us in your image,
though often we fail to live as you have taught us.
We long to receive your comfort,
while still closing our ears to the cries of those who mourn.
We ask for your mercy,
but are quick to cast judgment on others.
We want to be a part of the kingdom of heaven,
though we are not willing to work for it on earth.
In your mercy, forgive us. Rekindle in us a light that pleases you,
and reflects your coming renewed creation.
Through Christ, our Lord, 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.**

Anthem “Come Be the Light” Patterson

Children in K5 – first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Anthem “Walk in Light” Marrolli
Les Hicken, clarinet

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 2:1-5* p. 550

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 5:1-16* p. 785

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Get the Picture?”

Anthem “Creation of Peace” Miller

Responding to **God’s Word**

* Affirmation of Faith

**God was incarnate in Jesus Christ,
who announced good news to the poor,
proclaimed release for prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
let the broken victims go free,
and proclaimed the year of the Lord’s favor.
Jesus came to seek and to save the lost;
in his life and death for others
God’s redeeming love for all people was made visible;
and in the resurrection of Jesus Christ
there is the assurance of God’s victory over sin and death
and the promise of God’s continuing presence in the world.**

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.**

Anthem “Deep River” Culloton

Offering

Offertory “Like a River Glorious” arr. Smith

Anthem “Be Glad and Rejoice” Tate

Cam Warren, Bob Dellert, soloists

* 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 #744 “Arise, Your Light Is Come!” FESTAL SONG

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response “May a Song Remain Within You” Schultz

* Postlude “To God Be the Glory” arr. Hustad

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Mark Kemp, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Nancy Smith, *organist, pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *pianist, flautist*

The Sanctuary Choir

The Chancel Choir

Lynne Robinson, *pianist*

Westminster Youth Choir

The Senior Choristers

The Junior Choristers

Martha Gower, *pianist*

Mary Ashmore, *lay reader*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Russ Williams, Caroline Clark, Neil Shurley,

Keith Stevenson, Lesley Usher, *greeters*

Grier Clark, Wells McFadden, *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.

Our Nursery provides a welcoming environment from children ages crib through 4K. Nursery is staffed by 6 paid staff each week. To support the growing needs of our nursery, we encourage members to volunteer in the nursery, alongside the paid staff, to build relationships with children and nurture them. You can sit, stand, play – however you feel most comfortable engaging. Children enjoy a wide variety of personalities, because they are too. If you’d like to know more, email Aly Friend, alyfriend@wpc-online.org or write Nursery on your connection card.

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.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This Sunday, May 1, begins the Summer Schedule:
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
No Sunday School

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *John Francis Felt*, to Tyler & Mary Knight Felt on Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

CALLING ALL CHEFS!

The Weekday School is having their annual carnival on Friday, May 6, from 3-5p. If you are interested in donating a casserole or a baked good, please contact Cara Puntch at 232-5766 or cpuntch@wpc-online.org for more information. We would also love to see you stop by to join the fun!

IT’S ELEMENTARY CARNIVAL

The It’s Elementary Carnival is Wednesday, May 4, from 2:30-4:30p. We look forward to celebrating all our children have learned this year and the community we share! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Associate Pastor Lauren Slingerland (lslingerland@wpc-online.org) or write *Carnival* on your prayer request card.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF WORSHIP AND SERVICE 5/15, 10A FOLLOWED WITH LUNCHEON

To mark 75 years of ministry in and to the Greenville community, please join us for worship on May 15 at 10a followed by a bbq luncheon. We will be joined in worship by former Head of Staff Lud Weaver, and all former pastors of the congregation have been invited to join the luncheon. There is no cost for this event, but RSVPs will be required. Photos of past WPC events are needed. If you would like to send a copy or a digital photo, email to wpcanniversary@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.

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

Passionate about the environment? Consider joining the Creation Stewardship team. Creation Stewardship's next upcoming commitment will be collecting meal waste for composting after the 75th Anniversary luncheon on May 15th. Composting meal waste has much less warming effect on the atmosphere than landfilling the same material and lessens the burden on the world's poor people, who suffer the most from climate change. If you are interested in helping contact Bill Holt at 864 982 3368 or write "Creation Stewardship" on your Connection Card.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDIES

Beginning the first week of May, join Mary Kathleen and Lauren for Bible studies! See details below:

- What does it mean to be Presbyterian?: All Sr. High Youth are invited to join Mary Kathleen in the Youth Suite every Wednesday at 7p in May! We will explore our identity as Presbyterians during this 4 week study.
- Relationships Bible Study: All current 8th graders are invited to join Lauren every Thursday at 4:30p in the Green Lot (Rain plan: Youth Suite). During this 4 week study, we will explore our relationships with God, ourselves, family, and peers.

Questions? Reach out to Mary Kathleen (mkduncan@wpc-online.org) or Lauren (lhood@wpc-online.org).

WPC BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, May 3, at 7p in the church library. Arrive at 6:30p if you want to enjoy fellowship before the meeting. Beth Holladay-Edwards will lead our discussion of *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty. New attendees are always welcome.

VISITATION MINISTRY

Can you spare one hour a month? Are you a good listener or a good conversationalist? If so, the WPC Visitation Ministry just might be a good fit for you. This ministry consists of volunteers who commit to visiting a fellow WPC member once a month. Recipients of this ministry are those who are elderly or are isolated and may no longer be able to attend church. If interested, contact Amos Workman (aworkman@wpc-online.org) or Janie Little (jrlittle42@gmail.com).

MEMBERSHIP@WPC

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 5:30-7:30p on Wednesday, May 18. Those who attend the class are invited to become members during the 11:15a worship service on Sunday, May 22. Childcare is available. Please contact Julia Watkins (jwatkins@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
May 1 - 8, 2022

Sunday, May 1
Third Sunday of Easter
Music Sunday
9:00a Membership Committee Meeting
9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Reception honoring Nancy Smith

Tuesday, May 3
12:00p AI-Anon Group Meeting
Administrative Committee Meeting
7:00 Westminster Book Club

Wednesday, May 4
2:15p WPC Kids Afterschool
2:45 It's Elementary Carnival
7:00 Senior High Bible Study

Thursday, May 5
4:30p 8th Grade Bible Study

Friday, May 6
3:00p Weekday School Carnival

Sunday, May 8
Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Reception honoring Confirmands
4:30p Women of Westminster Planning Meeting

THE SESSION

The Class of 2023

Mary Ashmore	Kevin Lancaster
Tony Atkins	Lisa Mangione
Jeff Beck	Rob Morgan
Emily Busby	Carl Muller
Caroline Clark	Mae Todd Mullins
Durden Collins	Laura Williams Sanders

The Class of 2024

Hastings Blumer	Toni Paylor
Laura Cox	Neil Shurley
Jay Culclasure	Keith Stevenson
Ross Glidewell	Lesley Usher
Jara Jones	LeAnne White
Meg McKnight	Russ Williams

The Class of 2025

Jacob Barker	Nikki Grumbine
Marian Carpenter	Bill Holt
Lindsey Donlan	Ginny Reed
Carroll Farmer	Jordan Smith
Zach Freeman	Tom Vanderbloemen
Susan Grier	Parks Workman

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HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Bill Ballinger

I would imagine my faith journey to this point in my life is very similar to many others. I was born into and grew up in a family of believers. I went to Church, to Sunday School, to Vacation Bible School, to Youth Group and Youth Choir (Mark Kemp was actually an intern in the Music Ministry at First Baptist Greenville, my church growing up!), and mission trips. I was baptized. I believed in God and in Jesus. After high school, though, my attendance at church waned, and did for a few years until my wife and I established a church home at Westminster. Again, I believed in God, and in Jesus, but looking back, I certainly did not have what would constitute a true relationship with God and Jesus.

I've been fortunate to have many influences in my faith journey: family, friends, colleagues. I was introduced to a wonderful book by a colleague and very dear friend of mine, *not a fan.*, by Kyle Idelman. The theme of the book is becoming a completely committed follower of Jesus. I highly recommend it. Early on in the book, I was struck by its reference to Matthew 7:22-23, that there are many who consider themselves to be Christians and followers of Jesus, only to ultimately stand in front of God in judgment and hear Him say, "I never knew you: go away from me." I cannot imagine what that would feel like. I do not want to know what that would feel like. One of God's goals is for us to be totally dependent on him. He wants to have a personal relationship with us. One of the lessons and practices I have learned that has furthered my faith journey is gratitude, and being thankful. That is what the scripture reading for today, Psalm 126, is about: gratitude and thankfulness. At first this sounds like an easy task, but it might not be as easy as you believe.

In a recent email from Ben, he referenced that "joys and sorrows are a part of everyday life." We all know this to be true. The Gospel of John writes, "In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world." In times of joy, it is easy to be thankful. It can be much more difficult to be thankful in times of sorrow, or trials. This is one area where faith can grow the most. No matter the circumstance, I try daily to be thankful. I constantly try to respond with praise, with joy, and with gratitude toward God for everything I can; for big things and little things. I talk to God daily. When times are tough, I try to take the position of, "I know you have a plan for this. I might not know what that is, but You do, and I trust You." I remind myself that God is in control; not my circumstances, and not my troubles. I try to fix my focus on God's faithful presence, and not on my circumstances. I might not be happy with the things that are troubling me, but I can be thankful that it is part of God's plan for me, and he is still near to me. When difficult experiences become sources of praise, a closer relationship with God can take shape. When you can consistently praise and thank the Lord during times of trouble, it becomes easier to be thankful for all things. "Through toil and suffering rises great harvest of joy and thankfulness." Rather than placing strength in fear, worry, depression, doubt or anger, place strength in God's love for you. Paul the Apostle wrote, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." We are not promised freedom from struggle, but we are promised that God will always be present. With trouble, and when faith is tested, comes opportunities to grow in faith. I truly believe I have grown in mine.



Vacation Bible School 2022
August 1-5
for rising Kindergarteners through
rising 5th graders.

Registration ENDS MAY 1.

Mark your calendars and join us for Westminster Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School 2022 - To Mars and Beyond! Children will spend the week discovering the wonders of God's universe and exploring where God's power can take them. Register online at the link on our website. If you have questions or would like to know more, please write VBS on your connection card. VBS needs volunteers! Please join us for a fun and fulfilling week with many volunteer opportunities! If you are interested in helping with VBS, contact Rachael Benson or Caroline Blouin at vbs@wpc-online.org.

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