



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

“Of God’s love we can say two things: it is poured out universally for everyone from the Pope to the loneliest person on the planet; and secondly, God’s love doesn’t seek value, it creates value. It is not because we have value that we are loved, but because we are loved that we have value. Our value is a gift, not an achievement.”

William Sloane Coffin, *Credo*

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 History: WPC@75 Alissa Edwards  
Prelude “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Raney  
Introit “Surely” Langston  
\* Call to Worship John 15:6, 16

**Leader:** Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.  
**People:** **Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.**  
**Leader:** Jesus said: You did not choose me but I chose you.  
**People:** **And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.**  
**All:** **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn of Praise #645 MIT FREUDEN ZART  
“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

\* Prayer of Confession  
**Holy and gracious God, we know that we have not always fulfilled the promises made in our baptism. We have been stubborn when you asked us to change. We have been self-centered when you asked us to serve. We have seen others through the standards of the world, instead of viewing our neighbors with the eyes of Jesus Christ. In your mercy, forgive us. Heal our hidden wounds, and restore our faltering faith. Grant us courage so that we would follow you faithfully, trusting that nothing in our past or in our future can separate us from your love. In Christ’s name 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, *John 1:43-50* p. 863  
Epistle Lesson, *Romans 8:28-39* p. 919  
**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**  
Sermon “Preaching Nothing”

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 Lord, Hear My Prayer” Berthier

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  
Anthem “I Thank My God” Schwoebel

\* 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

Welcoming of the 2022 Class of Confirmands

William Gray Blount	Levi Taylor Kemp	Thomas Robert Price
Capers Bouton, II	Carter McLendon Likes	Charles Wilson Ratterree
Katherine Monroe Cobb	David Wilson Lowe	Emily Jane Rayner
Audrey Elizabeth Cox	William Thomas Marguet	John Robert Robinson
Michael Hayes Dickens	Charles Bissell McFadden, III	Margaret Alice Rowan
Austin Carter Dodge	Katherine Jane McGhee	Shaw Allan Shurley
Samuel Lyman Dorr	Miles Carson McGregor	Evelyn Jane Simons*
Jackson David Eller	Alexander Quinn Montgomery	Lily Charlotte Simons*
Olivia Anne Galipeau	Laura Catherine Morgan	Lilla Bratton Surka
Margaret Hope Gwaltney	Abigail Keelen Newton	Laura Caroline Taylor
Todd Timmons Hardaway, Jr.	Whitner Howell Palmer	Samuel Bruce Vanderbloemen
Katie Grace Hoffman	Ashton Twedt Phillips	Mary Burton Wilkins
Caroline Elizabeth Johnson	Ava Twedt Phillips	

\*The confirmands will be recognized in worship on New Member Sunday, May 22.

Constitutional Questions  
Baptisms Katherine Monroe Cobb  
Michael Hays Dickens  
Miles Carson McGregor  
The Blessing  
Anthem “Write Your Blessed Name” Scott

The Welcome

**Elder:** These young people, by publicly professing their faith, have expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in their baptism. Let us welcome them as they join with us in the worship and mission of the Church.

**People: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, in whom we are all one.**

\* Hymn #296 “Go in Grace and Make Disciples” WONDROUS LIGHT  
\* Charge and Benediction  
\* Choral Response “Gaelic Benediction” Ulrich  
\* Postlude Postlude on *Old 100th* Bock

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*  
Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*  
Laura Williams Sanders, *sponsor*  
Nancy Smith, *organist*  
Rosemary Hughes, *pianist*  
The Sanctuary Choir  
Jennifer McDavid, *lay reader*  
Bryan Kelley, *head usher*  
Laura Cox, Zach Freeman, Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell, Jara Jones, *greeters*  
Cam Warren, Drew Simmons, *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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTHS

The birth of a daughter, *Sarah Mahon Wilson*, to Mahon & Ellen Wilson on Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

The birth of a son, *James Christopher Land*, to Philip & Beth Land on Friday, April 29, 2022.

We Remember in Prayer

Gary Hill on the death of his mother, Grace Garrison Hill, in Greenville - 5/1/2022.

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.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### OPEN MINDS • Gathering@WPC

#### 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).

#### 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.

#### GIVING@WPC

#### MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

Celebrating Mother's Day with a gift to Presbyterian Communities of SC is a long standing tradition for SC Presbyterian churches. PCSC consists of six retirement facilities located throughout the state. The offering benefits residents who need financial assistance during their last years. Envelopes for this annual offering are located in the Ritual of Friendship folders. Make checks payable to WPC and designate them for PCSC. For information about PCSC, go to www.prescommunities.org.

#### PROJECT HOST SOUP KITCHEN

This summer, serve alongside other WPC folks with partner agency, Project Host, whose mission is to use food as a tool to nourish the hungry and train the unemployed. Volunteers will prepare, serve, and clean up a meal for our vulnerable neighbors. This is a great way to extend hospitality while getting a glimpse of some of the inequities in our own backyard. Volunteer shifts for ages 15+ are 2nd Tuesdays (June 14, July 12, August 9), 9a-1p. Contact Julia Watkins or write "Project Host" on your Connection Card to sign up.

#### PROJECT HOST SOUP KITCHEN

Kick off the summer with shrimp, sausage, and plenty of stecca at WPC's Low Country Boil. Everyone's welcome to share in the fun at Brewery 85 on Sunday, June 5 from 5-7p. We will also celebrate Mark Kemp's ministry and send his family off with thanks. Childcare will be provided. RSVP on WPC's home page or write "LCB" on your Connection Card.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**THE HARBINGER**  
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#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS May 8-15, 2022

##### 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

##### Tuesday, May 10

12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting  
2:00 Circle 3 Meeting

##### Wednesday, May 11

9:30a Circle 6 Meeting  
Weekday Chapel  
9:45 Weekday Chapel  
10:00 Weekday Chapel  
7:00p Senior High Bible Study  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

##### Thursday, May 12

12:00p Finance Committee Meeting  
4:30 8th Grade Bible Study

##### Sunday, May 15

##### Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting  
10:00 Worship Service  
11:00 75th Anniversary  
BBQ Luncheon

### OPEN MINDS • Gathering@WPC

#### WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

##### Tuesday, May 10

- **Circle 3**, at the home of Nancy White (35 Stillwood Dr., 29607) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

##### Wednesday, May 11

- **Circle 6**, at the home of Liz Einstein at 9:30a. Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) co-chairs.

# the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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### From the Pews, Kayla Burrell

Most of us have someone in our lives who always sees the bright side of things. While this way of thinking is usually refreshing, it can also be frustrating; are we not allowed to be in pain sometimes? To need to vent without being bombarded with silver linings and "at least"s? Why does everything have to be positive? We know that God will still love us even in our darkest moments. God will still love us even when we find it hard to love Him.

I often find myself guilty of being that person— the one who sees "the bright side" of any situation, even if the bad far outweighs the good. I've been described as "easily pleased" and "quick to praise." I think it stems from a need for joy wherever I can find it. It is the little things that keep me going, that bring a smile to my face even during my worst days. I instinctively try to see how "all things work together for good," as it is said in Romans 8, almost as if to tell myself, "See, we're still okay." But sometimes, this way of looking at things is just not realistic. Sometimes, things go horribly wrong in people's lives, or they have a particularly bad day, and it is unfair to force a positive angle. Sometimes, people just need a minute to sit and rest. Being in pain— be it emotional, physical, or a combination— is exhausting, and being told to "see the bright side" in those situations is often the opposite of helpful.

It is great to find joy in the little things, and wanting to spread that happiness to others is admirable. But little nuggets of optimism are not what people need at every moment. Sometimes, they need a friend to listen, to join them where they are. To try to love them as God loves them. So now, whenever I am tempted to say "at least," I try to remind myself that nothing— no amount of pain, sadness, or negativity— can separate us from God's love, as Romans 8 says, and that we do not need to "be positive" to be worthy of it.

#### ATTENTION GRADUATES

We would like to list the names of our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office at 232-2424. The names will be listed in the **June 12** Harbinger.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

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