



Ascension of the Lord

Preparation for **Worship**

Startle us, O God, with your truth, and open our minds to your Spirit, that we may be one with Christ our Lord, and serve as faithful disciples, through Jesus Christ. 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.**

Prelude Prelude and Fugue in C Major J.S. Bach

* Call to Worship Isaiah 40:28, 30-31

Leader: Have you not known? Have you not heard?

People: **The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth...**

Leader: Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted,

People: **but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles;**

Leader: they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #260 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" HYFRYDOL

* Prayer of Confession

Mighty and mysterious God,

you are constantly doing a new thing in our midst, yet we confess that we are sometimes slow to perceive it.

Instead of paying attention to your plans,

we are prone to force and fixate on our own.

Free us from our worn-out striving, we pray, and form us as your faithful witnesses.

Grant us the patience to participate in your present work

so that we may bless others, as you are forever blessing us.

In Christ, 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)

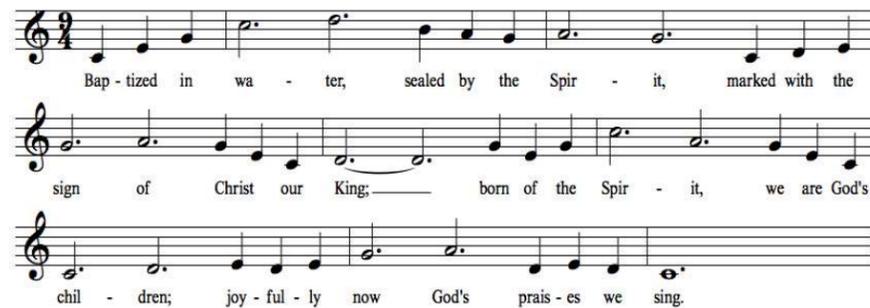
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Catherine James Paylor

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 43:8-13* p. 586

New Testament Lesson, *Luke 24:44-53* p. 861

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Can I Get a Witness?"

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.

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

Solo "My Lord, What a Mornin'" arr. Hayes

* 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 #755 "Alleluia! Laud and Blessing" WEISSE FLAGGEN

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response AKERS

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

* Postlude "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken" Young

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Julia Watkins, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Beth Edwards, *lay reader*

Margaret Paylor, *sponsor*

Todd Monsell, *organist*

Hunter Ditsch, *soloist*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Hastings Blumer, Rob Morgan, Jacob Barker,

Marian Carpenter, Lindsey Donlan, *greeters*

Cam Warren, *acolyte*

Worship Notes

Today we welcome Todd Monsell as organist at Westminster. Todd is also the Upper School Vocal Music Instructor at Christ Church Episcopal School, and brings considerable gifts to Westminster. We are grateful for his worship leadership.

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices.

WORSHIP BAGS

Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make foundational layers of meaning for faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday. This shift to reusable items demonstrates how we value hospitality and care for creation. Special thanks to Tavia Young, Allison Muller, and Ruth Johnston for their faithful gifts to our children in this behind-the-scenes ministry.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Catherine James Paylor, daughter of Andrew & Mary Paylor.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate MARRIAGE

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, *Jan Haubenreich* and *Jim Buell* were united in marriage in Belmont, NC.

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.

IT'S ELEMENTARY, REGISTRATION OPEN!

It's Elementary is an after school faith formation group for children in 1st grade-5th grade that meets on Wednesdays during the school year from 2:30-4:30p. Our theme for next school year is "The Life and Teachings of Jesus." Children will learn about Jesus Christ through Bible study, recreation, crafts and games. Registration is required and the link is available on the church website. Register today!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, REGISTER BY JUNE 1

Over 100 children have already signed up to join us for Vacation Bible School, August 1-5 from 9-12. Registration will be open until June 1st for rising Kindergarten through 5th grade. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please email vbs@wpc-online.org for more information.

Join Us in Welcoming

NEW MEMBERS

Last Sunday we welcomed the following new members into our fellowship:

- Kristen Goff joined by transfer from First Presbyterian, Winchester, VA.
- Mitch & Meredith Johnson joined by reaffirmation of faith (Mitch) and by transfer from First Presbyterian, Spartanburg (Meredith). They have two children, Hattie (6) and Wilkes (4).
- Kim Landry joined by reaffirmation of faith. She has two children, Max (18) and Molly (15).
- Chuck & Katie McFadden joined by transfer from Christ Church Episcopal, Greenville. They have three children, Charlie (16), Owen (13), and Wells (10).
- Chip & Jen Ryan joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have one daughter, Isabel (6).
- Brad & Jaime Satterfield joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have one daughter, Addie (1).
- Frank & Amanda Stern joined by reaffirmation of faith (Frank) and by transfer from First Baptist, Greenville. They have one son, Teddy (5 mo.).
- David Watt joined by transfer from First Presbyterian, Lexington, KY.

LOW COUNTRY BOIL

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.

MEN OF THE CHURCH TO DRIVE GAME SUNDAY, JUNE 26 AT 3:05P

If interested, call Bob Vannoy (640-9073) or Amos Workman (423-0070), or call the church office to sign up. Deadline for signups is Monday, June 6.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

The Connections Luncheon Group will meet at Bonefish Grill (1515 Woodruff Rd.) on Sunday, June 12 at 11:45a after the 10a worship service. RSVP by Friday, June 10, to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com). Newcomers are welcome!

OPEN MINDS • Serving with WPC

PLEASANT VALLEY SUMMER CAMP

This summer, WPC is partnering with Pleasant Valley Connection to offer enrichment opportunities with under-resourced children in their summer camp. Volunteers are needed to help from 1:30-2:30pm on June 6, 14, 22, and 27, and throughout the summer. This is a fun opportunity to build relationships with our local outreach partners, enrich the lives of children, and learn about our community. Click here to sign up or for more information, contact Julia Watkins or write "PVC" on your Connection Card.

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.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
May 29 - June 5, 2022

Sunday, May 29

Seventh Sunday of Easter
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Fellowship

Monday, May 30

Weekday School closed
Church Office closed

Tuesday, May 31

12:00p AI-Anon Group Meeting

Sunday, June 5

Pentecost
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service with communion
11:00 After Worship Fellowship
5:00p Low Country Boil

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Women of Westminster offers scholarships to provide financial aid among college and graduate student membership within our church. This year, Westminster is also partnering with local agency, Fostering Great Ideas, so that a portion of funds will support college-bound students in the foster care system. Any Westminster member who will be furthering their education in the fall is eligible to apply. Applications are available from the church office or online at www.wpc-online.org. Applicants may contact Coleman Dixon (colemamdixon@hotmail.com) with any questions. The deadline is Friday, June 24, 2022. Church members are reminded that memorials and donations may be designated to this scholarship fund to aid in its continuation.

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: _____

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Randall Fowler

The book of Isaiah is a tremendous book of the Bible filled with declarations of love, yearning for communion, and bold declarations of who God is to the people of Israel. In Isaiah 43:8-13, we read about a spiritual gauntlet being thrown down as the God of the Hebrew people challenges the idolaters and Hebrews who have strayed from their faith to defend their gods and idols, while launching into a brief reminder of how God's active love propelled him to rescue the children of Israel from their storied past.

We've all had moments when we've strayed from the right path. Maybe you can recall leaving home and questioning your family convictions as a young adult. Or maybe you remember that advice from a parent or mentor that was delivered to you when you weren't ready to listen, but now you shake your head and with a heavy sigh say to yourself, "If I could do that all over again..." If you can relate to those feelings, then you can relate to the Israelites who were stepping away from God and adhering to a value system that was incongruent with their ancestral faith.

With time we are blessed with experiences that show us how deeply God loves us and the variety of ways he shows us his love. The Israelites were no different than us in that capacity, but instead of decades of examples of love they had centuries worth of stories handed down from generation to generation. Imagine gathering around the hearth and hearing the stories of God using Deborah to defeat the Canaanites, of him working through Esther to foil the plans of Haman, and the classic story of the exodus from Egypt. After all of these moments of compassion-filled rescue, God continued to remind the Israelites that he has "revealed and saved" them and will be with them always.

In our own lives, how often do we forget about what God has done for us and need a reminder? Are there moments when we look to idols of prestige, importance, or vanity instead of to the God who loves us at our worst? My prayer today is that we will hold fast to our faith in the God who "deliver(s) us from evil" and that "goodness and mercy shall follow (us) all of (our) days."

