



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Startle us, O Lord, with your truth. Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence. Remind us, faithful One, of the promises you have made from long ago. Open our hearts and minds to the power of your Holy Spirit once again, that we may be one with Christ our Lord, united in our love for one another and for you, serving as Jesus' faithful disciples all our days. 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 *Toccata and Fugue* Anonymous

* Call to Worship Isaiah 52:7, 9-10

Leader: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news.

People: **Break forth together into singing, for the Lord has comforted his people.**

Leader: The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations.

People: **And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #450 "Be Thou My Vision" SLANE

* Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, we know that we have behaved in ways that are trivial, trite, and untruthful.

We have focused on small grievances instead of being grateful for your gifts.

We have been quick to judge others without considering our own habits of self-deception.

We have closed our minds and hearts to the expansiveness of your love, forgetting that the only ground on which we stand is your saving grace.

Forgive us, Holy One.

Open our lives to new forms of service and new opportunities for growth.

Make us a community that is built not on success or superiority, but on the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, through whom 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, #581

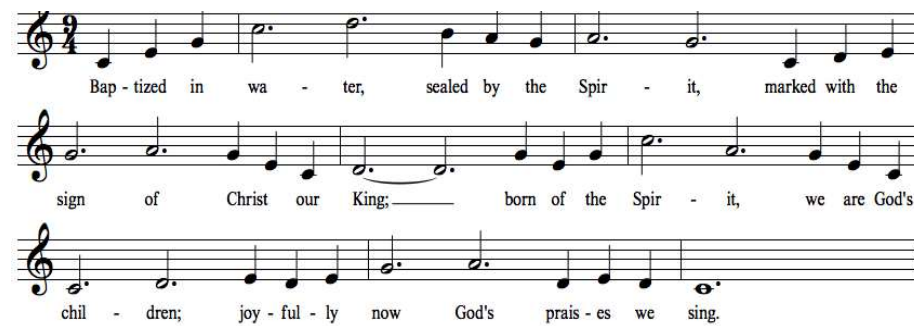
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Theodore Sanders Stern, III

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, *Genesis 18:1-15* p. 12

New Testament Lesson, *Acts 11:1-18* p. 895

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Open Minds Open Hearts"

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

Anthem *O Lord, You Know My Heart* Ford

* Doxology Hymnal, #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 #451 "Open My Eyes, That I May See" OPEN MY EYES

* Charge and Benediction

* Congregational Response Hymnal, #740

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 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* arr. Purifoy

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Parks Workman, *sponsor*

Keith Brown, *lay reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist*

The Summer Choir

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer, Zach Freeman,

Susan Grier, Jacob Barker, *greeters*

Ellen Reynolds, *acolyte*

Worship Notes

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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Theodore Sanders Stern, III, son of Frank & Amanda Stern.

We Remember in Prayer

Betsy Brown on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Shaw, in Black Mountain, NC - 8/10/2022.

SUMMER/FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will continue our summer worship schedule of one worship service at 10a through Sunday, September 4.

Join us September 11 for Kick-Off Sunday. Register on the WPC website for breakfast (\$8 adults; \$5 children), and come learn more about many of WPC's ministries.

- 9a Breakfast and Connection Fair
- 10a Sunday School
- 11:15a Worship

On September 18, we'll resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

Save the Date!

75TH GALA

To register for the September 22nd Gala at the Poinsett Club, see the link in the e-News and on the church website at www.wpc-online.org. Or, you may call the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING,

SEPTEMBER 11TH:

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 11, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the terms of call for Leigh Stuckey as Executive Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, and to elect the members of the 2022 Nominating Committee.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN MINDS • Serving with WPC

Gathering@WPC

PROJECT HOST SOUP KITCHEN

Volunteer with Project Host soup kitchen, which serves some of our most vulnerable neighbors. The next available dates are September 13 and 27 (9a-1p). Sign up at www.wpc-online.org or write "Project Host" on your Connection Card.

PLEASANT VALLEY CONNECTION HOMEWORK HELPERS

WPC is seeking volunteers to serve one-on-one with elementary students in PVC's after-school program. You'll be building a relationship, helping with homework, and practicing basic reading and math skills to set children up for success. Volunteers (ages 16+) will serve on a weekly basis for up to 1 hour. To get involved, contact Anna Hanor (anna.hanor@gmail.com) or write "PVC" on your Connection Card.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ABRAHAM BUILD

Throughout the fall, Westminster is partnering with Habitat for Humanity in an exciting new way! We will participate alongside other Christian, Jewish, and Muslim congregations in an Abraham Build, named for the three faith traditions that count Abraham among their ancestors. Together, we will build a home in the historic Nicholtown community, while also building relationships with one another and our neighbors of diverse faith backgrounds. Sign up at www.wpc-online.org or contact Tony Atkins (tony@indconinc.com) to get involved.

SUPPERS WITH SEVEN

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2022

The summer vacation season is drawing to a close and it's time to get back into our regular schedules. Are you ready to get back together with Westminster members? What about enjoying meals with other Westminster members? "Suppers With Seven" is seven persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals over a two-month period of time. 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. The deadline to sign up is Monday, August 29.

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.

_____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 21 - 28, 2022

Sunday, August 21

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Youth Back to School Retreat

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 After Worship Fellowship

with donuts

11:15 Stated Session Meeting

Tuesday, August 23

12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting

Wednesday, August 24

12:30p It's Elementary Volunteer

Training

Sunday, August 28

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 After Worship Fellowship

with donuts

Youth Parent Meeting

11:30 Pleasant Valley Volunteer

Training

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.

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Randall Fowler

In his essay "Politics as a Vocation" from 1919, the German sociologist Max Weber classified authority in three categories. There was the legal authority, which governs through laws and rules, traditional authority, found within cultural customs and traditions, and charismatic authority, the authority based upon the leadership of an individual. In today's scripture, we see Peter engaging with each category of authority and present a revolutionary ending.

- Legal Authority - The early church, which was still overwhelmingly Jewish in law, ethnicity, and belief, was affronted by Peter eating the "unclean" food of the Gentiles.
- Cultural Authority - Peter spent days with a group of Gentiles who were pushing back on the Judaistic piety of the early church and their informal separation between the two groups.
- Charismatic Authority - Peter speaking of his divine experience brings forth a new revelation on the grace and acceptance of God.

So which authority should we listen to and value? Do we take the legalistic authority of dietary restrictions as divine protection against less than healthy nourishment? Maybe the cultural traditions of separation and partition will usher in a cloistered glory? Or should we adhere to the supernatural visions of a dynamic leading figure in the days of the early Church? With such powerful and commanding categories of authority on display, what is the truth we are able to extrapolate from this text? Is there another authority greater than the Weberian examples evidenced above? Or maybe there is a simple and direct message that we can glean from this text.

The early Church based their authority on the Hebrew laws and prophecies within the Old Testament, and viewed Jesus as the culmination of those texts. But now that the law has been fulfilled through Jesus, the gospel message would supersede the law and establish a new authority. The authority of love and acceptance. A message of God's grace and forgiveness for everyone, even, to quote that famous hymn, "a wretch like me."

