



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“It wasn’t until after dessert, as I faced a mountain of dishes alone in the kitchen, that I realized how much Addy and Aury, the little Falzones, were enjoying themselves. They’d asked me to turn up the music – Amy Winehouse, if you must know - and were dancing around and around the dining room table... ‘Will you dance with us?’ Addy asked. So the three of us held hands and danced around the table to “Trouble,” the scent of garlic and prosciutto still hanging in the air and the dishes piled high in the kitchen. Suddenly I remembered a mysterious verse from the book of Hebrews. ‘Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.’”

From “*A Year of Biblical Womanhood*” by Rachel Held Evans

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” from *Suite Antique* Rutter

* Call to Worship

Leader: Gather us in,
People: the lost and the lonely, who long for nourishment.
 Leader: Gather us in,
People: the puzzled and pondering, who long for company.
 Leader: Gather us in,
People: the bright and bustling, who long for deeper joys.
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #415 “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” RESTORATION

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy and mysterious Lord,
 You are the God who calls us to throw back our heads
 in wonder and count the stars.
 Instead, we count our money and fret.
 You are the God who calls us to sit at your feet
 and listen to your words.
 Instead, we stress over details
 and mentally calculate our to-do lists for later in the day.
 You are the God who assures abundance
 and calls us to live with that mentality.
 Instead, we hoard our time and possessions,
 ever worrying that there will not be enough.
 You are the God who calls us to join the worldwide feast
 and to compel others to come in.
 Instead, we turn inward, fearful of how we will be perceived.
 Forgive us for all the ways our humanity
 gets in the way of embracing the divine in our lives.
 Open our minds and hearts to your promises, your words,
 your abundance, and your hospitality,
 so that we might be transformed. 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.**

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

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Genesis 18:1-8* p. 12

New Testament Lesson, *Luke 10:38-42* p. 845

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Do You Like to Entertain?”

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 *Ubi Caritas* Walker

“When we truly welcome love, we welcome God.”

* 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 #630 “Fairest Lord Jesus” CRUSADERS’ HYMN

* 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 *Fanfare* Leighton

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Walter Hinton, *lay reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist*

Rosemary Hughes, *flutist*

Bryan Kelley, *head usher*

Ross Glidewell, Mary Ashmore, Meg McKnight,

Laura Cox, Hastings Blumer, *greeters*

Madeline Hardaway, *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.

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.

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.

Save the Date!

75TH CELEBRATION

To register for the September 22nd celebration 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.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, September 19 at 7p in the Charter Room. After the long “Covid lapse,” we need to regroup. Hope you can attend this gathering. Please bring books/suggestions for upcoming programs. All are welcome.

WPC BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, September 6, at 7p in the church library. Mary Martha Smoak will lead our discussion of *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt. Book Club members who are interested will gather at Panera Bread at 6p for fellowship and dinner beforehand. New attendees are always welcome.

CONNECTIONS LUNCHEON GROUP

The Connections Luncheon Group will meet at Lieu’s Chinese Bistro (1149 Woodruff Rd) on Sunday, September 18, at 12:45p. RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, September 16. Newcomers are always welcome!

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
ABRAHAM BUILD**

Habitat for Humanity’s Abraham Build kicks off this week! AM and PM shifts are available throughout the fall, including the following September dates: 9/8, 9/10, 9/15, 9/17. No experience is necessary, but volunteers must be 16+. Sign up on the church website or contact Tony Atkins (tony@indconinc.com) to get involved.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Children and youth ages 5K-grade 12 are invited to register for the church basketball season. Online player registration opened Sunday, August 28 and continues through Sunday, October 2. Registration may be accessed on the church’s website at www.wpc-online.org. WPC members interested in being a coach or assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

**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.

The Session presents the following slate for election to the Nominating Committee:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Neil Shurley (chair, Session member) | Sarah Beasley |
| Jacob Barker (Session member) | Randy Blouin |
| Lindsey Donlan (Session member) | David Hanor |
| Susan Grier (Session member) | Lydia Kellett |
| | Gaye Sprague |

CHILI COOK-OFF!

Calling all Chili contestants! Please contact Coleman Dixon (864-607-8778 or colemandixon@hotmail.com) if you're interested in participating and seeing if your chili is a winner! Mark your calendars for the churchwide chili cook-off on October 2 after worship in the Fellowship Hall brought to you by the church and the Women of Westminster.

WESTCONNECT

Looking to nurture lasting friendships and grow in faith? You’re invited to participate in WestConnect, a new ministry of small groups meeting regularly on a seasonal basis to share life, pray, and study together. Beginning in early October, WestConnect will gather for a 6-week series on Jesus’ parables. Contact Julia Watkins to learn more, or complete the WestConnect interest form on the website.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

From 10–11a each Thursday morning during the school year, our church has a Thursday morning Bible Study which will begin again on September 8 in the Charter Room. The Bible study will be taught by Ben Dorr and we invite all of those, new or old, to join us for this in-depth look at our faith. Enter at the church office side of the campus. If you have questions or would like more information, contact the church office at 232-2424.

THE HARBINGER
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
September 4 - 11, 2022**

Sunday, September 4

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Membership Committee Meeting
- 9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 After Worship Fellowship with donuts

Monday, September 5

Weekday School & Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 6

- 12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting Administrative Committee Meeting
- 6:30 WPC Book Club Meeting
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 7

- 8:00a Habitat for Humanity
- 2:30p It’s Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 8

- 8:00a Habitat for Humanity
- 9:30 Weekday Chapel (3K)
- 9:45 Weekday Chapel (5K)
- 10:00 Weekday Chapel (4K)
- 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
- 3:00 Hiking Group Planning Meeting
- 5:30 WestConnect Facilitator Training

Saturday, September 10

- 8:00a Habitat for Humanity

Sunday, September 11

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Kick-Off Breakfast & Connection Fair
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Congregational Meeting
- 4:30 Baptism Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal Senior High Youth Group

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Parks Workman

As I was meditating on the scripture readings for this week, the Spirit led me to recall a recent sermon on Ecclesiastes. I can almost hear the words: “For everything there is a season”—a time to be busy, a time to sit and listen, . . .

In the scripture readings, God pays his followers a visit. First, the three visitors visit Abraham and Sarah. Second, Jesus visits Mary and Martha. Abraham and Sarah hurried to prepare a meal. Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.

Like many—including Martha, Abraham, and Sarah—I have a tendency to fall into being busy. I seek comfort in the distraction of always having something to do or a task to complete. Jesus’ words call loud: “You are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one.”

I, of course, need to listen to the wisdom of Jesus and know that there are times to just sit and listen. However, I do not think Jesus is admonishing arduous work for his kingdom. Indeed, for everything there is a season . . . even our “busyness.” Importantly, Jesus is telling us that we need to seek him in all things, whether it is in our work, our “busyness,” our rest, etc.

When struggling to see God during busy daily tasks, a friend passed along a book of collected writings of Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Brother Lawrence shares:

The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were on my knees.

Imagine if the “one thing” that permeated all aspects and seasons of our lives—including our “busyness” and our rest—was the presence of God. Perhaps these are easy words to say but difficult to live in practice. However, I take comfort in Brother Lawrence’s practical words:

He does not ask much of us, merely a thought of Him from time to time, a little act of adoration, sometimes to ask for His grace, sometimes to offer Him your sufferings, at other times to thank Him for the graces, past and present, He has bestowed on you, in the midst of your troubles to take solace in Him as often as you can. Lift up your heart to Him during your meals and in company; the least little remembrance will always be the most pleasing to Him. One need not cry out very loudly; He is nearer to us than we think.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

welcome back!

Join WPC for Kick-Off Sunday, September 11. 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
- 12:15p Congregational Meeting

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

Children/Youth Sunday School Class Locations

Children - Growing in Grace & Gratitude

4K (Room 102)
5K/1st (Room 109)
2nd/3rd (Movie Room)
4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth - Feasting on the Word
Middlers (300 Hall)
Senior Highs (Youth Suite)

Adult Sunday School (September 11-October 23)

Daughters & Disciples: Women in the New Testament
led by Leigh Stuckey
Room 209

Often when we think of the New Testament we remember Jesus' 12 disciples and the Apostle Paul, but women's stories are critical to Jesus' early ministry and the spread of the gospel in the first century. From Elizabeth and Anna to the Samaritan woman and Paul's early supports, women's stories are rich and can help inform modern discipleship. Join us for this lecture-style class.

Perspectives on Science and Faith
led by John MacCarthy
Room 212

This course will be structured around discussions of questions such as the following: What is science? What is religion? What is the purpose of science? What is the purpose of religion? Is there scientific evidence for the existence of God? Do astrophysics and evolution disprove the existence of the God of Hebrew scriptures? How are scientific and religious realities similar and different? How are scientific and religious thought similar and different? Is science fundamentally anti-religious? Is religion fundamentally anti-science? Are there ways in which they can support one another? What are miracles? Do they (did they) occur and what does science say? Does prayer "work?" Is religious experience "simply a brain state" or is it communion with God? What does science say about religious experience? What are scientific and religious perspectives on free will? Does God exist and are we able to know Him/Her/It?

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