



First Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

“Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other—things that are really of no consequence—the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
Letters & Papers from Prison

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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a Christopher Hanson & Blake Hoffman
11:15a Hunter & Allie Ablewood

Prelude How Brightly Shines the Morning Star arr. Shackley

* Call to Worship

Leader: Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

People: **Our soul waits for the Lord; God is our help and shield.**

Leader: Our heart is glad in God, because we trust in God’s holy name.

People: **Let your steadfast love be upon us, O Lord, even as we hope in you.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

* Prayer of Confession

**God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit our neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure.
Replace our vain desires with the hope
that can be found in Jesus Christ,
the One for whom we wait and 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, 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.

11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Lesson, *Romans 15:7-13*

p. 924

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 1:5-25*

p. 831

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “What the Future Looks Like”

Responding to **God’s Word**

*Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Anthem

Blessings

Story

* 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 #104 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response Amen

Rutter

* Postlude “And the Glory of the Lord” from Messiah Handel

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

David Golladay (9a), Lesley Usher (11:15a), *lay readers*

Nancy Smith, *guest organist and pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *soloist*

Parks Workman (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), *head ushers*

Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman,

Nikki Grumbine, Bill Holt (9a), *greeters*

Carroll Farmer, Zach Freeman, Jara Jones,

Jacob Barker, Lesley Usher (11:15a), *greeters*

In Memoriam

Haynes Morrow

(1/16/2003 - 11/21/2022)

“I am the resurrection and the life.”
- John 11:25

We Remember in Prayer

Jim Gettys on the death of his father,
Jim Gettys, Jr, in Columbia, SC -
11/15/2022.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

THORNWELL OFFERING

Thornwell, a residential home and foster program located in Clinton, SC, provides a place for children who need a stable home life, a solid education, and spiritual nurturing. As members of Westminster, we have an opportunity to share in meeting this need. Please make checks payable to Westminster and designate for Thornwell.

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, November 21, we have received \$1,681,832 in pledges toward our 2023 pledge goal of \$2,600,000. For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Pam Schook, at pschook@wpc-online.org.

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.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH UPDATE

Beginning this **Sunday, November 27**, Children’s Church will be offered only at 11:15a worship. Moving Children’s Church to one service gives our children a better opportunity to connect and build relationships as they engage in age-appropriate worship education. One service also allows our volunteers to connect with more of our families. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. We are excited to have all the children together in one Children’s Church service!

Opportunities@WPC

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Join the Lightly Seasoned group, a fellowship group for those in their fifties (very loosely defined) – will meet at the Church on Wednesday, November 30, at 6:00 p.m. to decorate the Sanctuary Atrium Christmas tree. Watch your e-mail for more information, or – if you don't hear from us – please contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org). We hope to see you!

US/MEXICO BORDER TRIP

Join Westminster to build relationships and understanding across the US/Mexico border. We will be serving alongside Frontera de Cristo, a ministry of the PC(USA). Trip dates are February 11-17, 2023. Registration and a non-refundable deposit are due by December 9. Contact Julia Watkins for more information.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Come join Connections Luncheon group for Brunch at Camp (2 E Broad/Camperdown Plaza) on Sunday, December 11 at 12:45p. RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, December 9. Newcomers are welcome!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ABRAHAM BUILD

Only two more dates remain to volunteer. On December 8-9th (am and pm shifts available), we'll be putting the finishing touches on the home. Sign-up on WPC's website.

GATEWAY TOUR

Learn more about WPC partner, Gateway, which provides mental health resources, with an emphasis on relationships and skill-building as vehicles for healing. On December 1st, you're invited to tour Gateway from 12:-12:30p, with an option to share lunch with program participants afterwards. RSVP to Julia Watkins.

GOAL RESEARCH KICK-OFF

Greenville's interfaith justice ministry, GOAL, has chosen housing and mental health as its focus issues for the upcoming year. Anyone who has committed to participating in GOAL as a network member is invited to attend the Research Kick-Off on November 29th (6:30-8:30p) at Gethsemane Baptist Church. Contact Julia Watkins to get involved.

Gathering@WPC

We welcomed the following new members into our fellowship on November 20, 2022:

- Mark & Lindsey Boyce joined by transfer from Mount Pleasant Presbyterian, Mount Pleasant, SC. They have two sons, Mac (2) and Hayes (11 mos.).
- Skip & Carrie Gordon joined by transfer from Buncombe Street United Methodist, Greenville.
- Whit & Laura Johnson joined by transfer from Decatur First United Methodist, Decatur, GA. They have a daughter, Adeline (7), and two sons, Whitman (4), and Beckett (2).
- Jim & Nancy Kier joined by transfer from First Presbyterian, Naples, FL.
- Betty King joined by reaffirmation of faith.
- Lewis & Libba Lowery joined by transfer from First Presbyterian, Wilmington, NC. They have three daughters, Anne Wells (13), Eliza (10), and Emily (3).
- Mike & Eleanor Peters joined by transfer from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, New York, New York.
- Jay & Margaret Pruitt joined by transfer from Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian, Charlotte, NC. They have two children, a son, Calhoun (3), and a daughter, Whitley (1).
- Tony & Melissa Threatt joined by transfer from Westminster Presbyterian, Nashville, TN. They have two children, a daughter, Lillian (10), and a son, Miles (8).
- Spencer & Dani Wilkinson joined by reaffirmation of faith. They have two sons, Bodhi (5), and Sonny (3).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Sanctuary Tree Decorating
Women of Westminster will be decorating the sanctuary trees on Wednesday, November 30, at 6p. Please join us!

Advent Luncheon
All women of Westminster are invited to the annual Advent Luncheon on Sunday, December 4. The luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The speaker will be Lizzie Bebbler from United Ministries. Childcare (crib-5K) will be available upon request. Lunch will be catered by AppleSpice and will include a warm pasta dish, salad, bread, and dessert. The cost is \$13.50 per person. The deadline to sign up is Tuesday, November 29.

Women of Westminster Retreat - February 24 - 26, 2023 at Montreat Conference Center
Watch for online signups to open soon!

THE HARBINGER
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2310 Augusta Street
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(864) 232-2424
[www.wpc-online.org](#)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 27-December 4, 2022

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent
9:00a Worship Service with communion
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service with communion
5:30p WestFest X

Monday, November 28

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, November 29

12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 30

2:30p It's Elementary
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
6:00 Lightly Seasoned and Women of Westminster to decorate Christmas trees
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 1

9:30a Weekday School Chapel (3K)
9:45 Weekday School Chapel (5K)
10:00 Weekday School Chapel (4K)
Thursday Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent
9:00a Worship Service
Membership Committee Meeting
Sunday School
10:00 Sunday Session Meeting
10:55 Worship Service
11:15 Women of Westminster
12:30p Advent Luncheon
5:00p Cherub Choir Christmas
5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal
Senior High Youth Group

Our Vision:

Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:

Connect
Serve
Grow

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXV | November 27, 2022 | No. 30

From the Pews, Claire Gilliland

In Romans 15, we are reminded that God's glory is for all. And that's not simply Paul's idea. Paul cites his sources, which, as a college professor, is something I love to see. Paul offers examples from the Old Testament, including Psalms, Deuteronomy, and Isaiah, that foreshadow rejoicing and praise among people of all nations; this includes Jews and Gentiles, circumcised and uncircumcised, insiders and outsiders. This passage concludes with what could be a benediction, in which we are sent forth by "the God of hope...with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

The words joy, peace, and hope in that verse may sound familiar as we enter this season of Advent. As an Advent tradition, we light candles that symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love, using these words as guideposts on our annual journey back to the manger. For me, these four words represent an alternative set of priorities in a season characterized by busy-ness, purchasing, and final exam grading. As I feel tugged toward wanting picture-perfect decorations and perfectly baked sweets, these words ground me in a different possibility for this season. But in the translations of Romans 15:7-13 that I read, love is the missing word of this foursome. Where is love in this passage?

I can find love in a few places. We are called to welcome one another just as Christ welcomed us, and we are reminded of Christ's role as a servant. Welcoming and serving others, particularly when those others are people we view as different from us, are a way that we practice love. Christ came to earth to fulfill the promises set long ago, the gift of a Savior from a loving God. We see love all throughout the Bible in the calls to "love mercy" (Micah 6:8) and to "love one another" (John 13:34), as well as in the reminder that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Returning to the Romans passage, this love is evident in how this section is labeled in one translation: "The Good News is for Jews and Gentiles" (CEV). Despite the boundaries we create, God calls us toward love by sharing the Good News with everyone.

As we settle into this season of both darker evening commutes and glimmering twinkle lights, maybe these words of hope, peace, joy, and love can be anchors for you as well. For me, I will be trying to look for love in fuller, less picture-perfect ways.

Adult Sunday School (November 6–December 11)

Short Sermon, Big Impact: Exploring the Sermon on the Mount
led by Leigh Stuckey Room 212

The Sermon on the Mount is perhaps Jesus’ best known and most widely repeated set of sayings. In it, Jesus sets out an alternative vision for the world, one in which God, not Caesar, is king. God’s kingship has implications for all of our living, but our familiarity with the Sermon on the Mount (and particularly the Lord’s Prayer) has dulled us to its call. Join Leigh for this lecture style class that explores modern implications for the Lord’s Prayer and the little sermon.

How to be Perfect
led by Ted Gentry Room 209

Drawing on the acclaimed book of the same title by television writer and producer Mike Schur (*Brooklyn 99, Parks and Recreation, The Good Place, etc.*), this course seeks to talk in everyday language about questions of moral philosophy. What does it mean to be “good”? Why should we bother? If we practice, and understand the tools of moral philosophy, can we actually behave better?

We will tackle questions as simple as whether to return a shopping cart to the corral in the parking lot, and as complex as cancel culture and abortion. We will be applying slippery ideas to a complex and frustrating world, so the answers may not always be satisfactory. But the premise of the course is that thinking carefully about what we are doing, and why we are doing it, will help us to be better people.

We will also hear from Todd May, retired Professor of Philosophy at Clemson and adviser to Schur on *The Good Place* and on *How to Be Perfect*.

Mark your calendars:

WESTFEST X:

Mark your calendars for November 27 (5:30–7:30p) – it’s WestFestX, our annual celebration of Advent featuring The Erica Berg Collective and food from Local Pie and the Spinx Cluk Truk. Stay tuned for more details, including a special raffle for a custom sweatshirt!

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET
AND INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

Prepare your mind and heart for the coming of the Christ child while exploring Christmas traditions and fair trade gifts in the Alternative Gift Market and International Christmas Festival. On December 4 and 11, there will be a small-scale gift market in the Sanctuary Atrium following the 11:15a worship service. On December 18, we’ll gather in the Sanctuary Atrium during the Sunday School hour to explore traditions and artisan crafts from around the world. There are many ways to get involved including hosting a country table, running check out, and providing hospitality. Find out more information by contacting Lauren Slingerland at lslingerland@wpc-online.org.

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Advent & Christmas at Westminster

November 27 First Sunday of Advent WestFest X featuring the Erica Berg Collective and the Local Pie and the Spinx Cluk Truck 5:30-7:30p in the Green Lot
December 4 Second Sunday of Advent Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon 12:30p in the Fellowship Hall Cherub Choir Christmas 5p in the Sanctuary
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December 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent The 62nd Annual Service of Lessons & Carols 9 & 11:15a in the Sanctuary The International Christmas Festival 10a (the Sunday School hour)
December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship 4p and 6p in the Sanctuary (overflow in the Sanctuary Atrium)
December 25 One Worship Service 11:15a in the Sanctuary reception following service in Sanctuary Atrium
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POINSETTIA/ENDOWMENT/HERITAGE LECTURE MEMORIALS

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in three ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00 or you may give to either the Endowment or Heritage Lecture Funds. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend. Orders must be placed by Wednesday, December 7.

Donor _____
In Memory of _____
In Memory of _____
In Honor of _____
In Honor of _____
Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$_____ Endowment:_____ Heritage Lecture: _____



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