



**First Sunday after Christmas**

Preparation for **Worship**

Lord our God, our years come and go. We ourselves live and die. But you are and remain. Your rule and your faithfulness, your justice, and your mercy, have no beginning and no end. You are thus the origin and the aim of our lives. You are thus the judge of our thoughts, words, and deeds.

*Karl Barth*

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 *The Holy Boy* Ireland

Choral Introit *Rejoice, Rejoice!* Haugen

\* Call to Worship Isaiah 60 and Psalm 65

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.  
**People: The Lord crowns this year with bounty.**  
 Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.  
**People: The abundance of the sea shall be brought to us.**  
 Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.  
**People: The hills gird themselves with joy and the valleys deck themselves with grain.**  
 Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.  
**All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

\* Hymn #123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

\* Prayer of Confession

**O God,  
 We almost missed your light.  
 We confess our neglect for worship  
 and our forgetfulness of your gifts.  
 We have been too busy to pray and too proud to kneel,  
 yet we are drawn to the birth of a child.  
 We are inspired by the song of angels.  
 We are challenged by the responsive faithfulness  
 of the shepherds.  
 We long for the devotion and patience of the Magi.  
 Have mercy on us and help us to put all our concerns  
 in the new perspective of your constant presence  
 and unfailing care. Amen.**

\* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.  
**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\* Gloria Patri #581 GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Ecclesiastes 3:1-13* p. 537

New Testament Lesson, *Titus 2:11-14* p. 969

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Did We Almost Miss It?"

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 *How Silently, How Silently* Redner

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 *New Year* Rutter

\* Doxology #606 OLD HUNDREDETH

**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 #147 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Choral Response *Go Out With Joy* Davis

\* Postlude *Bring Him Gold, Incense, and Myrrh* Mawby

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Todd Monsell, *organist*

The Sanctuary Choir

Sam White, Jr., *head usher*

Tony Atkins, Carroll Farmer, Emily Busby,

Caroline Clark, Durden Collins, *greeters*

Ellis Bryan, *acolyte*

**WORSHIP NOTES**

**NURSERY**

We will not have a nursery on Sunday, January 1.

**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.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 2.

**In Memoriam**

Jim Glidewell  
 (7/1/1945 - 12/21/2022)

*"I am the resurrection and the life."  
 - John 11:25*

**With Thanksgiving We Celebrate**

**BIRTHS**

The birth of twin sons, *Conrad Welch Wrenn* and *Sullivan Peter Wrenn*, to Frank & Jenny Wrenn on Wednesday, October 26, 2022.

**Heritage Lecture Speaker@WPC**

Announcing the 2023 Heritage Lecturer: Kate Bowler. Join us on Thursday, January 19 at 7p. Bowler is the author of *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*, *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, and *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* (forthcoming). Dr. Bowler will speak in the Sanctuary from 7p-8:30p. Further details forthcoming.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Opportunities@WPC

#### LIGHTLY SEASONED GROUP

The Winter 2023 Lightly Seasoned Fellowship gathering has been scheduled for Saturday, January 28, at 6:30p at the home of Pam & Doug Evans (315 W. Faris Rd.).

#### PROJECT HOST SOUP KITCHEN

Serve with Project Host in 2023! Dates are now available for the New Year - every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. Sign up to serve online at [www.wpc-online.org/connect/eventsregistration](http://www.wpc-online.org/connect/eventsregistration).

#### WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet in the church library on Tuesday, January 3 at 7p. Carol Hinton will lead our discussion of *Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead. New attendees are always welcome. Please join us!

#### WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER UPCOMING EVENTS

##### 3rd Annual Churchwide Chili Cook-Off!

Mark your calendars for the churchwide chili cook-off on Sunday, January 22, after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Eleven teams will be fighting for the top chili spot. Come taste all of the chili and vote for your favorites from traditional beef recipes, to vegetarian options, to chicken chili, and also spicy! Sign up online now for taste cards, raffle tickets for great prizes, and a potato bar with salad lunch.

##### Women of Westminster Retreat - February 24 - 26, 2023 at Montreat Conference Center

The Women of Westminster Retreat is a time to unwind, experience peace and relax. The immediate calm and serenity as you come into Montreat is apparent. It's truly beautiful. At the Westminster Women's Retreat, our hope is that you experience God in a new and powerful way; learn something new about yourself through the messages brought to us by our speaker, Reverend Anne Apple; meet new friends; grow relationships; and have a getaway weekend for yourself. Please join us for a weekend of devotions, fellowship, music and fun. Sign up now through January 20, 2023 via the WPC homepage. Single rooms are first come, first serve and fill up! Join up with a friend(s) to get a double or quad room! Contact the church office or Coleman Dixon, Moderator, with any questions.

### OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

#### WPC KIDS' SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS ON JANUARY 8!

Children ages 3K- 5th grade meet on the 100 hall to explore the stories of God's faithfulness using the PCUSA curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude. Come and see how children build relationships and grow in faith during the Sunday School hour. Families lead the lessons and are encouraged in their faith also. For more information about Sunday School, speak with Parks Workman or Lauren Slingerland.

3K-4K	Room 102
K-1st	Room 109
2nd-3rd	Movie Room
4th-5th	Room 112

#### BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, January 29, at 4:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [wpcgreenville](#) | [wpc-online.org](http://wpc-online.org) | 2310 Augusta St.

### THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2310 Augusta Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29605  
(864) 232-2424

[www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org)

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160)  
Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Street, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

#### Church Staff

##### Ben Dorr

*Pastor & Head of Staff*  
[bdorr@wpc-online.org](mailto:bdorr@wpc-online.org)

##### Leigh Stuckey

*Executive Associate Pastor*  
[lstuckey@wpc-online.org](mailto:lstuckey@wpc-online.org)

##### Mary Kathleen Duncan

*Associate Pastor*  
[mkduncan@wpc-online.org](mailto:mkduncan@wpc-online.org)

##### Lauren Slingerland

*Associate Pastor*  
[lslingerland@wpc-online.org](mailto:lslingerland@wpc-online.org)

##### Julia Watkins

*Associate Pastor*  
[jwatkins@wpc-online.org](mailto:jwatkins@wpc-online.org)

##### Terri Price

*Parish Associate*  
[tprice@wpc-online.org](mailto:tprice@wpc-online.org)

##### Rosemary Hughes

*Interim Director of Music*  
[rhughes@wpc-online.org](mailto:rhughes@wpc-online.org)

##### Kathryn Knauer

*Children's Choir Coordinator*  
[kknauer@wpc-online.org](mailto:kknauer@wpc-online.org)

##### Todd Monsell

*Organist*  
[tmonsell@wpc-online.org](mailto:tmonsell@wpc-online.org)

##### Cara Puntch

*Weekday School Director*  
[cpuntch@wpc-online.org](mailto:cpuntch@wpc-online.org)

##### Cynthia Ellison

*Financial Secretary*  
[cellison@wpc-online.org](mailto:cellison@wpc-online.org)

##### Michelle Little

*Office Manager*  
[michelle@wpc-online.org](mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org)

##### Wendy Bagley

*Secretary*  
[wendy@wpc-online.org](mailto:wendy@wpc-online.org)

##### Aly Friend

*Director of Nurseries*  
[alyfriend@wpc-online.org](mailto:alyfriend@wpc-online.org)

##### Steve Phillips

*Building Supervisor*  
[sphillips@wpc-online.org](mailto:sphillips@wpc-online.org)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 1 - 8, 2023

#### Sunday, January 1

##### First Sunday after Christmas

11:15a Worship Service  
12:15p Cookie Reception

#### Monday, January 2

*Weekday School Closed*

*Church Office Closed*

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

#### Tuesday, January 3

12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting  
Al-Anon

7:00 Westminster Book Club Meeting

#### Wednesday, January 4

2:30p It's Elementary  
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, January 5

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

#### Friday, January 6

Confirmation Class at Montreat

#### Saturday, January 7

Confirmation Class at Montreat

#### Sunday, January 8

##### Second Sunday after Christmas

Confirmation Class at Montreat

9:00a Worship Service  
Witness & Service  
Committee Meeting  
10:00 One Adult Sunday School  
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting  
11:15 Worship Service  
5:00p Middler Youth Group  
Women of Westminster  
Board Meeting  
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

VOLUME LXXV | January 1, 2023 | No. 36

### From the Pews, Mary Martha Smoak

The text today is Ecclesiastes 3:1-13. An aging Solomon is credited with the verses which "call out" to those who will listen to his wisdom. He is portrayed as a teacher, but is by no means perfect. He is looking back on his life from birth to eventual death.

King Solomon knows that human wisdom has limits and the people are chasing after hopes and expectations that are meaningless. He wants his audience to understand that God orders all things and that humankind should accept this ideology. All should be prudent and patient with the order of life God has designed.

The verses in this passage are known as lyrics by many song writers. These lyrics were written over 2,000 years ago and remain true today. Turn! Turn! Turn!, written and recorded by The Byrds in 1965, is an echo of the words of Ecclesiastes so many years later. It was used as a protest song of the Vietnam War as well as sung by activists during the civil rights movement: "To everything there is a season...And a time to every purpose under heaven." Words and sentiments that span the test of time and situations.

I believe King Solomon was saying, take a deep breath, do not toil away your days. Humans cannot fathom all God can do from the beginning of time to the end of time yet to come. We can't change the past and do not know the future. We can live only in the present. There is time for each season of life and we should have faith that good times will outweigh the bad. Take joy in the small things and be grateful for all the time in life we are granted. We all have the same 24 hours of the day. Slow down and be mindful. Take time to prioritize the goals of each day. Remember to set aside time for yourself to rest and recharge of the tasks at hand. God is with us and beside us all the days of our lives.