



**Baptism of the Lord**

Preparation for **Worship**

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may be as faithful to the baptismal covenant as Christ. Grant us humility in our service, and gratitude for your grace, so that the light of Christ would be seen in us and the love of Christ would be shown through us. 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 *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* Buxtehude

Choral Introit 11:15a *Be Still and Know* Psalm 46

\* Call to Worship Psalm 96 & 98

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for God has done marvelous things.

**People: Sing and bless God's name;  
tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**

Leader: Proclaim God's glory to the nations,  
God's marvelous deeds to all peoples.

**People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,  
for God judges the world with righteousness.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn #475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

\* Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,  
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
making us part of the body of Christ.**

**We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,  
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.**

**We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,  
and show reluctance to welcome one another.**

**We allow the past to hold us hostage,  
and do not trust your promise to make things new.**

**In your loving kindness, have mercy on us,  
and free us from sin.**

**Remind us of the promises you make  
in baptism so that we may rise to new life,  
living together in your righteousness and grace. 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.**

The Sacrament of Baptism 11:15a John Francis Felt

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 42:1-9* p. 584

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 3:13-17* p. 784

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Plans and Promises"

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 11:15a *Lord Jesus Christ* Berthier

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 *It Is Well with My Soul* arr. Courtney/Nelson

\* 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 #687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Choral Response 11:15a *Amen* Lutkin

\* Postlude *Fanfare to a Festive Occasion* Smith

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Christa Likes (11:15a), *sponsor*

Ruth Johnston (9a), Josie Williams (11:15a), *lay readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Rosemary Hughes (9a), *soloist*

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Bryan Kelley (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), *head ushers*

Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell, Tony Atkins,

Meg McKnight, Laura Cox (9a), *greeters*

Neil Shurley, Keith Stevenson, Emily Busby,

LeAnne White, Russ Williams (11:15a), *greeters*

Mary Evans Howayeck, Madeline Weaver (9a),

James Knauer (11:15a), *acolytes*

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISMS

This morning at the 11:15a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship John Francis Felt, son of Tyler & Mary Knight Felt.

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.

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.

Theology Reading Group

In preparation for Kate Bowler being Westminster's Heritage Lecturer on January 19, The Theology Reading Group will discuss her recent book, *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)*, at the January meeting. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion on Monday, January 16, at 7p in the Charter Room. All are invited.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Opportunities@WPC

#### HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will meet again on Saturday, January 14, to hike at Paris Mountain State Park. Contact Hike Leader: Kathryn Algary (kaalgary@gmail.com) if interested.

#### 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).

### OPEN MINDS • Education@WPC

#### 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.

### WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER - UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Circle Meetings

Tuesday, January 10

- **Circle 3**, at the home of Becky Waldrep (200 Meyers Dr.) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Wednesday, January 11

- **Circle 6**, at the home of Liz Einstein at 9:30a. Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) co-chairs.

#### 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.

## 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  
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#### 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 8 - 15, 2023

#### Sunday, January 8

##### Baptism of the Lord

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

#### Monday, January 9

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

#### Tuesday, January 10

12:00p Al-Anon  
2:00 Circle 3 Meeting

#### Wednesday, January 11

9:30a Circle 6 Meeting  
2:30p It's Elementary  
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers  
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, January 12

9:30a Weekday School Chapel  
10:00 Thursday Bible Study  
12:00p Finance Committee Meeting  
5:00 New Member Party  
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

#### Friday, January 13

Weekday School closed

#### Saturday, January 14

8:30a Hiking Group Outing

#### Sunday, January 15

##### Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:00a Worship Service  
Creation Stewardship Meeting  
10:00 One Adult Sunday School  
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting  
11:15 Worship Service  
12:30p Stated Session Meeting

# the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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### From the Pews, Randall Fowler

Matthew 3:13-17 - The Baptism of Jesus

An introduction is an important device to making someone known whether socially, in business, or education. The process is so important, in fact, that the famous etiquette author Emily Post devoted a section of her 1922 book, *Etiquette in Society, in Business, in Politics and at Home*, to the proper use of inflections in introductions (humorlessly she also has a section entitled "New York's Bad Manners" where she shakes her head at the carelessness of New Yorkers and their introductions). Even for the most famous of individuals an emcee will give a brief biography of the upcoming speaker's background and activities before they take the stage. On radio or podcast an introduction is necessary to create the illusion of the mind where you can visualize the guest as the show plays. Most of the time these introductions are unnecessary to let the audience know who someone is, though. For instance, I've never been to a political rally and been gobsmacked when the emcee presents the candidate I planned to vote for. Or bought tickets to an event only to be surprised by the headliner.

There's a power behind an introduction, though, that can present someone as an expert, inform the listener of their bona fides, and even open doors of opportunities. So powerful are introductions that while ambassador to France, Benjamin Franklin complained about the number of unknown individuals asking him to write a letter of recommendations on their behalf.

"The bearer of this, who is going to America, presses me to give him a letter of recommendation, though I know nothing of him, not even his name. This may seem extraordinary, but I assure you that it is not uncommon here.... As to this gentleman, I must refer you to himself for his character and merits, with which he is certainly better acquainted than I can possibly be."

Now imagine yourself nearly 2,000 years ago, enthralled by the preaching of a man from the desert in camel skin and a leather belt. So compelling is he that you are to the point where you are compelled to follow him to a river, confess your sins, and be completely submerged by this stranger. But shortly thereafter another man arrives and that desert preacher recognizing who Jesus truly was announced to all that this is the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." Then after a quick exchange the charismatic man who sustained himself on wild locusts and honey proceeds to baptize this newcomer in a manner no different than how he baptized you and the others who followed him. But something different happens after this newcomer breaks the surface of the water. Something so different from how the others would simply wade out of the water to dry themselves off. As the sun bounces off the water and the wind rustles through the surrounding bushes, the voice of God breaks through the heavens and you hear, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Talk about an introduction!

*welcome back!*

**Children Sunday School Class Locations**

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.

**Children - Growing in Grace & Gratitude**

*3K/4K (Room 102)*

*5K/1st (Room 109)*

*2nd/3rd (Movie Room)*

*4th/5th (Room 112)*

**Youth Sunday School Class Locations**

**Youth - Feasting on the Word**

*Middlers (Youth Suite)*

*Senior Highs (Game Room of Youth Suite)*

**Westminster Academy**

**Adult Sunday School (January 2023)**

featuring Dr. Bob Bryant - Herrington Professor of Bible in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Presbyterian College

***The Radical Paul***

The Apostle Paul understood Christianity not as a system of ethics but as a transformative relationship with the living, mysterious God revealed in Jesus Christ by the power of the Spirit. Paul's understanding of the Christ-event shapes the way we worship, speak, and consider the God revealed to us in scripture and the life of Christ. Join us for this four week lecture style class to learn more about Paul's life, theology, and legacy.

*January 8: Paul: The Man and the Myth*

*January 15: The Generative Center: Exploring Paul's Faith*

*January 22: The Way of the Cross*

*January 29: The Life of the Spirit*

Bio: Dr. Bryant, an expert in Biblical languages and Pauline scholar, has been a professor at Presbyterian College since 1998 and has served as a visiting scholar at Duke University. Dr. Bryant studied at Virginia Tech and Union Presbyterian Seminary. He is an avid outdoorsman, traveller, and woodworker. We are grateful that he is joining us this month. Please welcome him in worship and Sunday school!

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**Our Vision:**  
*Open Minds Open Hearts*

**Our Pillars:**  
*Hospitality*  
*Generosity*  
*Justice*  
*Imagination*  
*Joy*

**Our Goals:**  
*Connect*  
*Serve*  
*Grow*

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