



Transfiguration Sunday

Preparation for **Worship**

“The dispute ends when we discover respect for each other, not on this ground or that, perhaps without any grounds, counter to every ground, simply because we are bidden when looking at our neighbor to think of the ‘one thing,’ of grace—to see him, in his foolishness and wickedness it may be, as a messenger of its sovereignty. Grace certainly does not live and move abstractly, nor transcendently: it comes to meet us in life, in the efforts, hopes, insights, concerns of those about me, in whose company I stand before God as an individual [...].”

Karl Barth, *Epistle to the Philippians*

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 *I've Just Come from the Fountain* Billingham

* Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;
All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

* Hymn #12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

* Prayer of Confession

**God of patience, your people grow weary.
 We complain and question.
 We put you to the test.
 Our mouths say yes, but our deeds say no.
 When we wander off your path,
 when we fail to follow through on our good intentions,
 when we give our attention to trivial things;
 gently call us back to you.
 Empty our hearts of anger and pride.
 Empty our spirits of greed and selfishness.
 Empty our minds of envy, doubt, and mistrust.
 As you poured out your very self through your beloved Son,
 pour your Spirit into our hearts today.
 Forgive us our wrongdoing.
 Reclaim us with your love. 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.

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

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Lesson, *Isaiah 55:1-3, 8-12* p. 598

Epistle Lesson, *Philippians 1:27-2:8* p. 953

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *“The One Thing”*

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 *An Offering* Forrest

* 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 #267 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* MADRID

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Be Thou My Vision* Page

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Jarrett Price (11:15a), *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *soloist*

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

Russ Williams, Toni Paylor, Neil Shurley,

Keith Stevenson, Nikki Grumbine (9a), *greeters*

Laura Cox, Hastings Blumer, Jay Culclasure,

Ross Glidewell, Jara Jones (11:15a), *greeters*

Salters Kelley, Preston Lancaster (9a), *acolytes*

Anna Clark Cameron, Mary Alice Price (11:15a), *acolytes*

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.

A TASTE OF THE BORDER

On Sunday, March 12 at 6p, join us for a lively evening of dinner and conversation about life and ministry on the US/Mexico border. We will hear from Presbyterian mission co-workers, Mark and Miriam Adams, as well as participants in WPC’s recent US/Mexico border trip. Limited space is also available to participate in a Mexican cooking class prior to the dinner at 4:30p. Cost is \$10/person. Reserve your place on WPC’s website.

We Remember in Prayer

Judy O’Neal on the death of her mother, Jewel Byrd Sherron, in Piedmont - 2/9/2023.

Parks McLeod on the death of his father, George T. McLeod, in Greenville - 2/13/2023.

**ASH WEDNESDAY
 FEBRUARY 22**

Mark the beginning of the Lenten season with penitence, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. From 8-9a and 12-1p, receive ashes, a blessing, and a prayer card in the columbarium (rain location: under the W. Augusta Place circular drive awning). Worship service with ashes at 6p in the Sanctuary.

WELCOME HOME DRIVE

Throughout March, Westminster is partnering with World Relief Upstate to collect furniture and household items enough to supply an apartment for a refugee family of four. Visit WPC’s website to learn how to donate. Limited drop-off times for donated items TBA. Questions? Contact Nikki Grumbine (grumbine5@gmail.com).
 • [Amazon wish list link:](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ZS5A2RDBJ33?ref_=wl_share)
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ZS5A2RDBJ33?ref_=wl_share
 • [Sign Up Genius link:](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caea72babf5c43-welcome#/)
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caea72babf5c43-welcome#/>

Opportunities@WPC

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, February 20, at 7p in the Charter Room. Dianne Scherer will lead the discussion of a novel, *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

WESTCONNECT

You're invited to participate in WestConnect, a ministry of small groups that share life, pray, and study together. The next 6-week season launches in late February, just in time for the season of Lent. Complete the interest form on WPC's website to get involved.

CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE
AUGUST 3-6

In 2023, we will return to Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham.

Costs: \$675 (single - one person)
\$710 (couple - shared room)
\$600 (parent/child)
\$800 (family of 3/1 room)
\$900 (family of four/1 room)

Covered in the cost is transportation, admission to museums and memorials, breakfasts each day, and certain group meals. Feel free to contact Leigh Stuckey (lstuckey@wpc-online.org) or Julia Watkins (jwatkins@wpc-online.org) with questions. Scholarships are available.

CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, February 21

- **Circle 7**, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood) at 6:30p. Circle Chair: Talitha Allen (bewt29617@bellsouth.net).

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Men of Westminster will have their monthly gathering at the Blockhouse Restaurant (1619 Augusta St.) on Thursday, February 23, at 6p. All men of the church are invited. No RSVP required.

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will meet again on Friday, February 24, to hike at the Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve in Pickens County. Contact Hike Leader: Donn James (donnandsalliejames@gmail.com) if interested.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:

*Connect
Serve
Grow*

**HOLY WEEK AT WESTMINSTER
APRIL 2-9, 2023**

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

*Worship at 9a & 11:15a w/communion
Sunday School at 10a*

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Service at 6p

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Service at noon

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

*Worship at 9a & 11:15a
Fellowship with donuts at 10a*

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THE HARBINGER
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
February 19-26, 2023**

Sunday, February 19

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Senior High Retreat

9:00a Worship Service
Creation Stewardship Group
10:00 Adult Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:30p Stated Session Meeting
4:30 First Steps Music Class

Monday, February 20

Weekday School Closed

7:00p Theology Reading Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 21

10:00a Foothills Presbytery Meeting
12:00p Al-Anon
6:30 Circle 7

Wednesday, February 22

2:30p It's Elementary
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
6:00 Ash Wednesday Service
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 23

9:30a Weekday Chapel
10:00 Thursday Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, February 24

Women of Westminster Retreat

8:30a Hiking Group

Saturday, February 25

Women of Westminster Retreat

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday in Lent

Women of Westminster Retreat

9:00a Worship Service w/communion
Creation Stewardship Meeting
10:00 Adult Sunday School
Confirmation Class
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service w/communion
4:30p First Steps Music 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

VOLUME LXXV | February 19, 2023 | No. 43

From the Pews, Claire Gilliland

The "invitation to abundant life" in our text from Isaiah 55 this morning came as a balm to my soul. In these cold and sleepy weeks between the joyful holidays and the return of spring, this text offers two metaphors for a celebration that work quite well for me: a feast of free food, and a singing and dancing creation.

Much of my faith was nurtured at a Presbyterian summer camp in central Florida, where I both attended as a camper and worked as a counselor even after I moved out of the state. The creation story is a staple of summer camp Bible studies. Genesis 1 and 2 tell us how God brought light into the world, split the sky from the earth, and filled the land, sea, and sky with all kinds of creatures. We are part of this creation, too, with God breathing us into the good world that God made. When I would share this story with a group of sweaty campers, we would sit in the dirt along the bank of a river trying to count the different kinds of bugs, trees, and plants just within our little area. All of us would marvel at how many wonders were hiding beneath our feet and above our heads, begrudgingly admitting that the biting mosquitos were part of God's creation, too.

In this text from Isaiah, God's creation reminds us that God's plans are not our plans, and God's ways are higher than our own. What a miracle it is that water comes down from the sky to nourish every living creature; what a source of comfort that we can count on spring's arrival, even in the midst of gray. In this passage, creation plays an active part in the celebration, too: "Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you; all the trees of the field will clap their hands." I know my campers would have liked this image of creation – that the abundant life God calls us to might be an outdoor dance party.

This invitation in Isaiah offers a joyful vision of feasting and celebration, all while reminding us of God's faithfulness and promise. What a joy that all of us get to be part of God's creation, made in God's image, and that we have the chance to witness, delight in, and protect God's handiwork.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday School Information:

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 (February 5- March 5, 2023)

Religion & Racial Justice: What role can religion play in racial justice?

Claire Gilliland – Room 212

Join us for a 4 week discussion on how religious beliefs and organizations can contribute to racial justice. Across our sessions, we will explore the Biblical motivations for pursuing racial justice, the empirical reality of racial inequality in the U.S., and the ways religious groups both positively and negatively contribute to racial justice in both their words and their actions. Designed to be an interactive course with both lecture and discussions, we will approach these big questions with a sense of curiosity and care.

Claire Gilliland is a Sociology professor at Furman University, where she researches how religious organizations both fight against inequality and sometimes make it worse. She completed her PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill in May 2021, and her dissertation focused on how clergy talk about social issues from the pulpit. She grew up Presbyterian and joined Westminster in 2021 with her husband. At WPC, she serves as a youth group advisor, on the Creation Stewardship Committee, and on the Heritage Lecture Committee.

Joy in Chains:

A Chapter-by-Chapter Study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Leigh Stuckey – Room 209

Press on toward the goal! Rejoice in the Lord always! Do not be anxious! Count all gains as loss! Accomplish all things through Christ! Paul's letter to the church in Philippi has been extracted for short bursts of biblical wisdom, but its richness lies in a developed understanding of its context, content, and core proclamation. Join us for this four week study of Philippians, one of Paul's most theologically rich letters written while he was a guest of the Roman magistrates and (literally) in chains. The letter is a thoroughgoing defense of Christian unity and is suffused with joy despite Paul's situation. It tells us not only who Christ is, but who we are called to be in light of that revelation. This course will attend to the letter chapter-by-chapter in brief lectures.

SUPPER WITH SEVEN April – May 2023

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to think about getting out and doing things. What about enjoying meals with other Westminster members? "Supper With Seven" is seven (or so) persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals at a time convenient to the group. 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 Supper With Seven page. The deadline to sign up is Monday, March 20. * Indicate preferred method of contact

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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.

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