



First Sunday in Lent

Preparation for **Worship**

Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 *Find a Stillness* Monsell

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

* Call to Worship Psalm 33

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
 Sing to God a new song.

**People: For the word of the Lord is upright,
 and all God's work is done in faithfulness.**

Leader: God loves righteousness and justice;
 the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

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

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #65 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God,
 you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
 We confess that we have strayed from your way
 and followed false gods,
 while convincing ourselves that we were on the right path.
 We have failed to forgive when grace was necessary;
 we have failed to speak when the truth was needed;
 we have failed to love when apathy was easier.
 Have mercy on us,
 and return us to paths of righteousness once again.
 Grant us courage in the face of our fears,
 and help us carry our neighbor's cross
 with willing and joyful hearts.
 We ask it in Christ's name. 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

Epistle Lesson, *Romans 1:1-7* p. 913

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 4:1-11* p. 785

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "When Angels Arrive Late"

*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 9a

Lamb of God

arr. Larson

Anthem 11:15a

O Holy Jesus

Willcocks

* Doxology #606

OLD HUNDRETH

**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 #166 *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* St. FLAVIAN

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response *11:15a Amen*

Rutter

* Postlude *Toccata*

Eberlin

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Terri Price, *liturgist*

Ellie Greer (9a), Ginny Reed (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, Derek Pitman (9a), *soloists*

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

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

Susan Grier, Jacob Barker, Marian Carpenter,

Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer (9a), *greeters*

Parks Workman, Nikki Grumbine, Bill Holt,

Rob Morgan, Jordan Smith (11:15a), *greeters*

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.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: BACK TO THE BASICS

During the season of Lent, our Sunday sermons will explore some of the basic doctrines and beliefs of the Christian faith. What does it mean to say that Jesus is fully human and fully God? Or to say that he died for us? What do words like sin and saved and suffering mean in our lives today? One of the goals of this series is to explore Christian faith from a Reformed/Presbyterian perspective, particularly during a time when denominations have become less relevant, and church membership has become much more fluid. This Sunday's sermon will address the question: What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of God?

Education@WPC

ONE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 26

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

Claire Gilliland - Room 209

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTHS

The birth of a daughter, *Madelyn Kate Serieno*, to Doug & Jenna Serieno, on Monday, October 10, 2022.

The birth of a daughter, *Talley Eloise Ariail*, to Parker & Brandi Ariail, on Thursday, January 12, 2023.

The birth a son, *Pierce Carter Massingill*, to Carter & Cameron Massingill, on Friday, February 17, 2023.

Opportunities@WPC

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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

A big thank you to our congregation! This year's donations benefitted United Ministries.

- monetary donations = \$1047.16
- food donations = 650 items

MEN OF WESTMINSTER RETREAT

The Men of Westminster will have their first (hopefully annual) retreat April 28-30, 2023 at Montreat. More information to follow soon, but make a note of the date. We have reserved accommodations for 25 attendees.

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. Cost is \$10/ person. Space is limited. Reserve your place on WPC's website.

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).

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:

*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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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THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 26 - March 5, 2023

Sunday, February 26
First Sunday in Lent

Women of Westminster Retreat
9:00a Worship Service w/communion
10:00 One 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

Monday, February 27

7:00p Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 28

12:00p Al-Anon

Wednesday, March 1

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

Thursday, March 2

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

Sunday, March 5

Second Sunday in Lent
9:00a Worship Service
Membership Committee Meeting
10:00 Adult Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
2:00p New Elder Training (3of3)
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

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*

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Scott Clark

By the book, Lent is a season of spiritual discipline, preparation, and anticipation of the celebration of the resurrection.

By practice, it is often treated as New Year's Day in the negative. Whereas on New Year's Day you may resolve to begin to do things – start going to the gym, begin helping an elderly neighbor by caring for her yard, pledge to read an entire book each week. Lent often works in the opposite direction, where you are more likely to pledge to stop doing things – stop drinking Diet Coke, refrain from second helpings at mealtime, not eating sweets. (Yes, reader, I am aware all of my “stop doing” examples are related to food. I will let you figure out why that is for yourself.) And in that temporary time of food-related sacrifice, we as Christians are somehow drawn closer to the sacrifice of Christ by eating almonds instead of M&Ms.

I have consciously tried to avoid this type of arbitrary adding or removing of elements to or from my life brought on simply by the flipping of days on the calendar. Said simply – I don't make resolutions at New Year's and I don't give things up for Lent. At this point I would like to tell you that this is because I am constantly and meticulously pruning the dead wood from my tree of life, thus maximizing the bounty of my fruit.

I am not. I bounce along carrying the same bad habits and same good intentions year after year as the most of us.

There is a quote out there attributed to a writer named Alan Watts that I have had in my head for many years. Goes like this –

“You are under no obligation to be the same person you were 5 minutes ago.”

The quote opens the possibility that at any time you can cease to be your old self and point in a new, presumably better direction – and you don't have to wait for January or even Mardi Gras to do it. It is a refreshing relief to know that at any time you can choose to be that person you want to be. But, intellectually you know this is folly, right? Life, looking forward, is drawn in straight lines – this is who I am going to be. Life, looking backwards, is an unrecognizable pattern of zigs and zags without analogue or precedent, curved and bent by the pressures and hard edges of the world – that was who I had to be.

But here I have good news. The quote is in fact quite correct. While your choices alone likely will not alleviate the pressures and hard edges of the world, you can absolutely control how you respond to life's inevitabilities. There is an astrophysicist or an existentialist philosopher out there who will agree – the person you were 5 minutes ago, not only doesn't exist, but has no sovereignty over the person you are right now.

So in this season of Lent – and in fact every day in this unsettled world – you get to decide. You get some say in how straight the lines are drawn in your past. You get some say in how closely the person who you are going to be matches to the person who you had to be – compassionate and not indifferent; kind and not insolent; humble and not proud; meek and not gruff; patient and not restless; almonds and not M&Ms.