



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Preparation for **Worship**

"The kingdom of God is not a place, of course, but a condition. Kingship might be a better word. 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,' Jesus prayed. The two are in apposition.

Insofar as here and there, and now and then, God's kingly will is being done in various odd ways among us even at this moment, the Kingdom has come already.

Insofar as all the odd ways we do God's will at this moment are at best half-baked and halfhearted, the Kingdom is still a long way off—a hell of a long way off, to be more precise and theological."

from *Wishful Thinking* by Frederick Buechner

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 9a Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service Wold

Prelude 11:15a Hiding in Thee arr. Gustafson

Choral Introit 11:15a Lord Jesus Christ Berthier

\* Call to Worship Psalm 131

**Leader:** O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
**People:** **I do not occupy myself with things too great  
and too marvelous for me.**

**Leader:** But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.

**People:** **O Israel, hope in the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore.**

**All:** **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn #370 This Is My Father's World TERRA BEATA

\* Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, we confess that we are a short-sighted people.  
We are so consumed with what's right in front of us—  
our worries and our wants—  
that we often miss signs of your presence.**

**We are so desperate for quick fixes and easy answers  
that we conflate fleeting progress  
with your enduring promises.**

**Forgive us, O God, and grant us  
the patience, courage, and hope  
to attend and await your kingdom.**

**Keep us watchful in the present until you come again  
to wipe away every tear,  
to bind up every broken heart,  
and to make us whole.**

**In Christ, we pray. 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

First Scripture Lesson, *John 13:31-35* p. 877

Second Scripture Lesson, *Revelation 21:1-6a* p. 1007

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Thy Kingdom Come"

Responding to **God's Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith from The Confession of 1967

**It is the will of God that the divine purpose for human life  
shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished  
from creation.**

**Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ,  
such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and  
earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the  
image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph  
over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation.  
Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world,  
stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its  
ultimate judgment and redemption.**

**With an urgency born of this hope,  
the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better  
world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of  
God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment  
and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all  
partial achievement to the final triumph of God.**

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 9a I Will Be a Child of Peace arr. Hagenberg

Anthem 11:15a Thy Kingdom Come Marrolli

\* 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 #377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light HOUSTON

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Choral Response 11:15a Amen Keen

\* Postlude Sonata in G Minor Vivaldi

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Julia Watkins, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Katie Knauer, Rosemary Hughes, Diana Dailey (9a), *ensemble*

Joanna Mulfinger (11:15a), *violin*

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Ross Glidewell (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *head ushers*

Emily Cole, Ingrid Erwin, Roger Gower,

Jeff Reynolds, Marian Carpenter (9a), *greeters*

Parks Workman, Stan Pendergrass, Betsy Raines,

Amy Hawkins, Susan Robbins (11:15a), *greeters*

Salters Kelley (9a), *acolyte*

Maisie Lucas, Madeline Weaver (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.

**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.

**With Thanksgiving We Celebrate**

**BIRTHS**

The birth of a daughter, *Sloan Elizabeth Maxwell*, to Joey & Susan Maxwell on Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

**In Memoriam**

Betty Geddie

(7/30/1946 - 3/13/2023)

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

**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 to say "thy kingdom come?"

**BAPTISM CLASS**

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, April 2, 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.

Opportunities @WPC

GOAL JUSTICE NEHEMIAH ACTION

Join WPC and members of 20+ other congregations for the GOAL\* Justice Nehemiah Action meeting. GOAL will ask local and state leaders for specific commitments in the areas of affordable housing and mental health. The meeting is March 28th from 6:30-8:30p (Doors open at 6p) at First Baptist Church. Those who wish to carpool should meet in WPC's main parking lot at 5:45p for 6p departure. Questions? Contact Julia Watkins. (\*Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership)

CREATION STEWARDSHIP REEDY RIVER CLEAN-UP EVENT

Join members of WPC's Creation Stewardship as they participate in a Reedy River clean-up event to be held on Saturday, April 1, from 9-11a. Contact Nikki Grumbine (grumbine5@gmail.com) for more details and sign-up information.

WELCOME HOME DRIVE

We are over halfway through our drive to collect furniture and household items enough to supply an apartment for a refugee family of four. Can you donate any of the remaining items? We are still seeking a new/gently used sofa, kitchen table and chairs, clothing storage units, pots and pans, and other items. Check our Amazon wish list on the WPC website and Sign Up Genius to donate and drop off at the Fellowship Hall during the times below. Questions? Contact Nikki Grumbine.

- March 26, 12:30-2:30p

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 three/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. Sign up online at [www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org). Scholarships are available.

PROJECT HOST

Join other WPC members to volunteer with the Project Host Soup Kitchen in service of our most vulnerable neighbors. Every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. Limited space is available in upcoming months. Visit WPC's website to sign up.

Easter Lilies/Memorials/Honorariums

Those desiring to remember loved ones during the Easter season may do so in three ways. Money may be given to purchase a lily for the sanctuary (\$15.00), or a contribution may be made to either the Endowment Fund or the Heritage Lecture Fund. **Deadline is Sunday, April 2.**

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Lilies x \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Heritage Lecture \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THE HARBINGER**  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2310 Augusta Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29605  
(864) 232-2424  
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
March 26 - April 2, 2023

Sunday, March 26  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:00 Sunday School
- Confirmation Class
- Education Committee Meeting
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Refugee Donation Time
- 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, March 27

- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 28

- 12:00p Al-Anon
- 6:30 GOAL Nehemiah Action at First Baptist Church
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 29

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

Thursday, March 30

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

Saturday, April 1

- 9:00a Creation Stewardship - Reedy River Clean Up

Sunday, April 2  
Palm Sunday

- 9:00a Worship Service w/communion
- Membership Committee Meeting
- Youth Education
- Sub-Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- Confirmation Class
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service w/communion
- 4:30p Baptism 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 | March 26, 2023 | No. 48

**From the Pews, Mary Martha Smoak**

In reflecting on today's scripture, John 13:31-35, it is helpful to clarify the scene in which Jesus is talking with the disciples. They are meeting to partake of the Last Supper. The disciples have been with Jesus throughout his ministry. Jesus is taking this last opportunity to pass on a message of importance: "Where I am going you cannot go with me." They are to receive a new commandment from him: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another." As Jesus is getting closer to the cross, he is calling and challenging his disciples, and us, to live in the way he modeled for us.

So, what is the meaning of love and how does Jesus expect the disciples to demonstrate and teach new followers on how a Christian should behave? Synonyms for love are many, but the ones I believe Jesus is asking of his disciples, and in turn of us as followers of him, are: devotion, friendship, respect, caring, benevolence, and empathy. The teachings of Jesus encourage us to love everyone, but especially the unlovable. Love does not require a complex reason.

I assure you I did not explore a writing software program such as Jasper AI, Writesonic, Copy AI or Grammarly to compose this message! I did however Google interpretations of today's scripture to see what other authentic theological individuals might have to say. Wendy Mendoza's thoughts were this: "Pray for a hand to lift the crippled, eyes to see justice, feet to guide the lost, a mouth to speak the truth and the heart to see the good in others." Loving requires gratuity and generosity. We can simply help a classmate who is struggling, compliment a coworker, and pray for those who have lost hope. A simple act of kindness goes a long way.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Adult Sunday School (March 26 – April 2, 2023)

#### **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.

#### **Global Warming, Climate Change, and Potential Christian Responses**

**John MacCarthy** - Room 212

What is the difference between global warming and climate change? Is global warming real? If so, what is causing it? What human activities contribute to it? What are the climate, environmental, and human impacts of global warming (in the U.S. and the world)? Who will be most affected by global warming and climate change? What can we do to mitigate global warming and its impacts? What are our responsibilities as Christians? This course will seek to answer these and other questions. The course will be based on the 2021 International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report and related college courses taught by Dr. MacCarthy.

#### **WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER**

#### **SPRING LUNCHEON - APRIL 23**

*Home is Where the Heart Is*

The Women of Westminster Spring Luncheon (also known as our Generations Banquet) is set for Sunday, April 23 - after the 12:15p worship service. Sign up for yourself and to bring your daughters and mothers! Join us to hear from our speaker, Reverend Jennifer Fouse Sheorn, a pillar here in our community from Triune Mercy. Cost will be \$13 per adult. Lunch will be provided by Brick Street Café and will include their Chicken Salad Fruit Plate (scoop of Miss Sue's Savory Walnut Chicken Salad, scoop of fruit and their 'Love Muffin'). Please let us know if you have any allergies and therefore need another option. Sign up online through April 18 for 'Home is Where the Heart Is!'

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## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### MEN OF WESTMINSTER MONTHLY MEETING

The Men of Westminster will have their next meeting at Yee-Haw Brewing Company (307 E. McBee Ave, Suite C), Thursday, April 6, starting at 7:15p. Come and enjoy "Thursday at the Masters" on the big screen!

### MEN OF WESTMINSTER RETREAT

The Men of Westminster will have their first (hopefully annual) retreat April 28-30, 2023 at Montreat. We have reserved accommodations for 25 attendees. Registration is available on the church website with the deadline being Monday, March 27.

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

#### Our Pillars:

*Hospitality*

*Generosity*

*Justice*

*Imagination*

*Joy*

#### Our Goals:

*Connect*

*Serve*

*Grow*

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*Hospitality*

*Generosity*

*Justice*

*Imagination*

*Joy*

#### Our Goals:

*Connect*

*Serve*

*Grow*

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### MEN OF WESTMINSTER MONTHLY MEETING

The Men of Westminster will have their next meeting at Yee-Haw Brewing Company (307 E. McBee Ave, Suite C), Thursday, April 6, starting at 7:15p. Come and enjoy "Thursday at the Masters" on the big screen!

### MEN OF WESTMINSTER RETREAT

The Men of Westminster will have their first (hopefully annual) retreat April 28-30, 2023 at Montreat. We have reserved accommodations for 25 attendees. Registration is available on the church website with the deadline being Monday, March 27.

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*Open Minds Open Hearts*

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*Joy*

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### 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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### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 24-28

FOR RISING KINDERGARTENERS THROUGH  
RISING 5TH GRADERS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

Mark your calendars and join us for Westminster Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School 2023 - Food Truck Party.

Children will learn to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God – and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met. We'll explore stories of the Bible through science, music, crafts, recreation, fellowship and service!

Register online at the link on our website. If you have questions or would like to know more, please write VBS on your connection card or visit the information table after worship.

VBS needs volunteers! Please join us for a fun and fulfilling week with many volunteer opportunities! If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Lauren Slingerland or email [vbs@wpc-online.org](mailto:vbs@wpc-online.org).



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