



Easter Sunday

Preparation for **Worship**

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Prelude *An Easter Celebration* setting, Raney

Choral Introit *Alleluia!* O'Carroll

* Call to Worship

Leader: Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.

People: **Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life.**

Leader: Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth.

People: **Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #232 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn. We are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace. We despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. 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

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 25:6-9* p. 568

Gospel Lesson, *John 20:1-18* p. 882

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Easter Tears"

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 *While We Are Waiting, Come* Cason

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 *Easter Rejoicing* 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 #248 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! HYMN TO JOY

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response "Hallelujah" from Messiah Handel

* Postlude *A Resurrection Fanfare* Smith

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, Mary Kathleen Duncan,

Lauren Slingerland, Julia Watkins, *liturgists*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Westminster Brass: Craig King and Bennett Dean, *trumpet*

Mark Britt and Henry Niehaus, *trombone*

The Sanctuary Choir

Jacob Barker (9a), Bryant Puntch (11:15a), *head ushers*

Carroll Farmer, Carl Muller, Susan Grier,

Jacob Barker, Marian Carpenter (9a), *greeters*

Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman,

Nikki Grumbine, Bill Holt (11:15a), *greeters*

Mary Evans Howayeck, Preston Lancaster (9a),

Mary Eliza Duncan, Madeline Hardaway (11:15a), *acolytes*

NEW BEGINNINGS: THE FLOWERING CROSS

Beginning after the Good Friday service, you are invited to bring flowers or greenery from your home to "flower" the crosses in our Green Lot on the corner of Augusta Street and West Augusta Place and on the lawn by the bell tower.

We believe the Flowering Cross can act as a reminder of the power of our faith and our collective witness. The cross at full bloom proclaims Christianity's most profound truth: that God creates hope where there was none, life from death, an empty tomb from a Roman Cross. In flowering the cross we are reminded that there is no Easter celebration without first confronting Good Friday, no empty tomb without the shadow of the cross. And, most importantly, we are reminded that death, exile, and darkness never have the final word.

The flowering cross appears in Christian art as early as the 6th century and is believed to have come from a legend that Christ's cross burst into bloom after Jesus' death.

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.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to be received this Easter supports Presbyterian programs around the world, providing funding for world hunger, disaster relief, and helping people in underdeveloped countries improve their standard of living through a better food supply and health care. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for One Great Hour of Sharing.

In Memoriam

Bruce Aufderhaar (10/8/1934 - 4/1/2023)

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

Opportunities @WPC

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 11

- Circle 3, at the home of Fran Walker (47 Charlbury St) at 2p. Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com), chair.

Wednesday, April 12

- Circle 6, at the home of Liz Einstein (223 Camille Ave) at 9:30a. Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) co-chairs.

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will meet again on Friday, April 14, to hike the Foothills Trail from Burrells Ford to Nicholson Ford. Hike Leader: Ted Sauvain (tedsauvain@gmail.com) if interested.

CONNECTIONS LUNCH GROUP

The Connections Lunch Group will meet at Iron Hill Brewery (741 Haywood Rd) on Sunday, April 16, at 12:45p. Please make reservations with Ruth Johnston at ruthjohnst51@gmail.com by Friday, April 14. Newcomers are always welcome!

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, April 17 at 7p. in the Charter Room. Amos Workman will lead the discussion of *Markings* by Dag Hammarskjöld. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

HANDS ON GREENVILLE DAY

Save the date for HOG Day! On the morning of Saturday, May 6, join folks from across our congregation to serve with a variety of local partners, followed by lunch and a community-wide celebration at Fluor Field. Details and registration coming soon.

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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR MUSICAL

On Sunday afternoon, April 16, at 4p, the Junior and Senior Choristers will present *CALLED*, a musical about kids listening for God's call and finding we all have a way to work for God's missions! They will be joined by the Cherub Choir in the Fellowship Hall. Come hear these young voices sing and proclaim that everyone has the heart and voice to pray, praise, sing, and rejoice!

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 Sheom, 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!'

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. Scholarships are available.

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Church Staff

Ben Dorr
 Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey
 Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan
 Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland
 Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Julia Watkins
 Associate Pastor
jwatkins@wpc-online.org

Terri Price
 Parish Associate
tprice@wpc-online.org

Rosemary Hughes
 Interim Director of Music
rhughes@wpc-online.org

Kathryn Knauer
 Children's Choir Coordinator
kknauer@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell
 Organist
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch
 Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

David Edwards
 Business Administrator
dedwards@wpc-online.org

Michelle Patterson
 Financial Secretary
mpatterson@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
 Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
 Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend
 Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
 Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 9 - 16, 2023

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday

9:00a Worship Service
 10:00 Donut Fellowship
 11:15 Worship Service

Monday, April 10

Weekday School closed

Church Office closed

8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 11

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

Wednesday, April 12

9:30a Circle 6
 2:30p It's Elementary
 3:30 Cherub Choir
 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 13

9:30a Weekday Chapel
 10:00 Thursday Bible Study
 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, April 14

8:30a Hiking Group

Sunday, April 16

Second Sunday of Easter

9:00a Worship Service
 Children's Ministry Meeting
 10:00 Sunday School
 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 11:15 Worship Service
 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
 12:45 Connections Group
 4:00 Children's Music Program
 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

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From the Pews, Katherine Gettys

“...he saw and believed;
 for as yet they did not understand the scripture,
 that he must rise from the dead.”
 John 20:9

John 20:1-18 is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. The verses detail the resurrection as experienced through three people who were quite close to Jesus: Peter, John, and Mary Magdalene. It is hard to imagine the torment they had endured in the preceding few days. From the high moments of Palm Sunday, to observing Jesus betrayed by their close friend, seeing him tried and sentenced, beaten and humiliated, killed on the cross, then Peter denying Jesus three times. They thought Jesus was here to save the world, and yet Jesus had been killed. I imagine these three people were feeling raw and exhausted after the agony of the last few days.

With that as the emotional setting, let's take a moment to picture the events described in John 20. Mary is at the tomb, seeing the stone had been rolled away. She is worried that Jesus' body has been moved rather than realizing that this is the climax of the story – the outcome of the resurrection. I picture John and Peter running to the tomb. When they arrive at the tomb, they see the linen wrappings lying there. Then the scripture says something so interesting in verse 9 – “for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.” The fact that Jesus died and rose again is the crux of our faith, and these close friends of Jesus didn't yet get it. Peter, John, and Mary were literally standing in the Easter Story and even as they began to “believe,” they still didn't understand.

As believers in 2023, our Easter experience has always been framed around the hope of the resurrection because we have the benefit of hindsight. As a child, I imagined the days between Jesus' death and Easter Sunday as a time when his friends sat in hope, expecting for Jesus to show back up as promised. This is yet another thing I have pictured far too simply. Back during the first Easter, these close friends of Jesus are seeing the evidence of his resurrection, and they are only just beginning to comprehend the meaning. Here we are over 2000 years later, and while we know of the resurrection, I would suggest that we too are just in the infancy of understanding.

I've written previously about the experience of losing my dad in November. His last few weeks were exhausting and so hard for my family. Despite the turmoil going on in his physical body, I was blown away by the peace and calm my dad had – he expressed feeling very close to God. I can only imagine that God was starting to open my dad's eyes in a way I haven't experienced. Because of Easter, we have hope. Since the beginning of time, our world has been full of both beauty and brokenness. There is war, hardship, loss of loved ones, school shootings, destructive tornadoes – juxtaposed against joyful moments as babies are born, and beautiful spring flowers are blooming. As humans and Christians, we try to understand – but the truth is that we can't. We are like John, Peter, and Mary who believed but didn't yet understand. We are a part of the story, with the hope of Easter, but have just scratched the surface of understanding the magnitude of the story. Our God has so much left to reveal. This Easter, I have the hope of the resurrection, the awareness that there is much left to know, and what is left is likely better than I can imagine. We believe, but we don't yet understand...and even that statement is brimming with hope.

EASTER LILIES CONTINUED

Walker, Leigh, Lillian, and Robert Miller
in memory of *Martha Miller*

Todd, Jessica, Julian, and Cameron Monsell
in memory of *Willard A. Monsell*

Todd, Jessica, Julian, and Cameron Monsell
in memory of *Janine B. LaMantia*

Katie & David Phipps
in memory of *Mr. Eugene Phipps*

Katie & David Phipps
in memory of *Dr. & Mrs. Linton Dunson*

Margaret Rich
in memory of *her parents, Braxton H. & Margaret C. Williams*

Margaret Rich
in memory of *her husband, James D. Semans*

Margaret Rich
in memory of *her sister-in-law, Della Horton Williams*

Frances & Pete Roe
in memory of *Lynn Rowell, twin sister of Gwyn Anderson*

Ron & Ilene Schlacht
in memory of *Ina Ridgeway*

Ron & Ilene Schlacht
in memory of *Peggy Phillips*

Melissa, Tony, Lillian, and Miles Threatt
in memory of *Ralph Moyer*

Melissa, Tony, Lillian, and Miles Threatt
in honor of *Allison & Carl Muller*

Melissa, Tony, Lillian, and Miles Threatt
in honor of *Jane Morrow*

Paula Walker
in memory of *John Carroll Rushing, Jr.*

Paula Walker
in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Walker*

Paula Walker
in memory of *Trenton Allen Quinn*

Sandra Wallace
in memory of *her parents, Matt & Ruth Wallace*

The Warren Family
in memory of *FE Warren, Jr.*

2023 Endowment Fund Memorials/Honorariums

Thomas Billings
in memory of *Nancy Billings*

Thomas Billings
in memory of *their parents*

Susan, William, Thomas, Jamie Leigh, and TJ Boyd
in memory of *Howard Boyd*

Adam & Deshia Breaux
in memory of *Haynes Morrow*

Betty Crawford
in honor of *Joanne Sweeny*

Carole Dennison
in memory of *Donald J. & Janet Hartland Dennison*

Carole Dennison
in honor of *Hartland J. Moede and Austin R. Moede*

Amy Grace
in memory of her mother, *Josephine Denton Johns*

Amy Grace
in honor of *Thomas Tallon, Andrew Tallon, and Merritt Grace*

Henry, Garrison, and John Hill
in honor of *their grandmother, Kathryn Algary*

The Houston Family
in memory of *Eddie Houston*

Tamara Beth Kastler
in memory of *her parents, Lonnie & Alberta Hunsucker*

Grier & Butler Mullins
in memory of *Tommy Gower*

Grier & Butler Mullins
in memory of *Tom & Elizabeth Gower*

The Nuttall Family
in memory of *Carl Nuttall*

Margaret Paylor
in memory of *John Hill Paylor, Jr.*,
and in honor of *her children, grandchildren,
and great-grandchildren*

Jim & Susan Robbins
in memory of *Bill & Nancy Patterson*

Sandra Wallace
in honor of *Henry & Julia Bellew*

Sandra Wallace
in honor of *Pat & Cathy Grills*

2023 Easter Lily Memorials/Honorariums

The lilies have been given by the following:

Kathryn Algary
in memory of *Elisabeth Toussaint*

Mary Ashmore
in honor of *Rosemary Hughes*

Randy & Gayle Blouin
in memory of *Joseph & Marianne Blouin*

Randy & Gayle Blouin
in memory of *Joseph & Eloise Smith*

Adam & Deshia Breaux
in memory of *Haynes Morrow*

Keith, Betsy, Ashley, Katherine Brown, and Bob Shaw
in memory of *Elizabeth Shaw*

Anna Wallace Clark, Hughes Clark, and Nan Partridge
in memory of *their Papa,
William Henry Edwin Nock, III*

Ben & Heather Dorr
in memory of *Sandy Stewart*

Ben & Heather Dorr
in memory of *their grandparents*

The Edwards Family
in memory of *David Edwards*

Ben & Alissa Edwards
in memory of *Dave Edwards*

Ben & Alissa Edwards
in honor of *Joan Edwards*

John Elingburg
in memory of *Joyce Kemp*

Madeline & Allen Freeman
in honor of *Mandy & Mark Pruitt and Family*

Madeline & Allen Freeman
in honor of *Becca & Bill Donohue and Family*

Katy Glidewell
in memory of *Jim Glidewell*

David & Elaine Golladay
in memory of *David A. Golladay, Sr.*

David & Elaine Golladay
in memory of *David & Helen Hadden*

EASTER LILIES CONTINUED

Joe Grace
in memory of *Joyce Page Grace*

Joe Grace
in memory of *Charles & Blanche Grace*

Merritt Grace
in honor of *Joseph, Erika, and Fiona Grace*

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of *Hayward Grier and Elizabeth West*

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of *Elizabeth Grier*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of *Dr. & Mrs. John Miller Grier*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of *Elizabeth Guritz*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of *David Guritz*

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of *Westminster's Staff*

Misty, Todd, Timmons, and Mills Hardaway
in memory of *Haynes Morrow*

Misty, Todd, Timmons, and Mills Hardaway
in memory of *Ryan Montgomery*

Henry, Garrison, and John Hill
in memory of *their grandmother, Grace Lucile Hill*

Ted & McKinley Hyman
in memory of *George Spivey Jenkins*

Kathy Jabara
in memory of *her parents and her husband, Rodger*

Jara Jones, Hunt and Meredith
in memory of *Dr. John M. Bolinger*

Jara Jones, Hunt and Meredith
in honor of *Marcella Bolinger*

Bob & Do Kaiser
in honor of *Family and Friends*

Tamara Beth Kastler
in memory of *her parents, Lonnie & Alberta Hunsucker*

EASTER LILIES CONTINUED

The Warren Family
in honor of *Everett Warren*

The Weed Family
in memory of *Tom & Mary Stallworth*

The Weed Family
in memory of *Jerry Weed*
and in honor of *Beverly Weed*

**2023 Heritage Lecture Fund
Memorials/Honorariums**

Talitha, Bill, Emily, and William Allen, III
in memory of *Jimmy L. Rogers*

Talitha, Bill, Emily, and William Allen, III
in memory of *William K. Allen*

Will & Beth Edwards
in memory of *Dave Edwards*

Will & Beth Edwards
in memory of *Tom Holladay*

Will & Beth Edwards
in honor of *Joan Edwards*

Will & Beth Edwards
in honor of *Joan Holladay*

Betty King
in memory of *Gerry King*

Edna Ruth Miller
in memory of *Vernon Miller*

Margaret Rich
in memory of *WPC Friends:
Louise Johnstone, Caroline Lewis, Susie McClenaghan,
Ellen McCluggage, Jo Mills, Martha Glenn Moorhead,
and Mary Glenn Stockton*

EASTER LILIES CONTINUED

Kay Kelly
in memory of *her mother, Pat Taylor*

Kay Kelly
in memory of *her father, Don Taylor*

Nancy & Jim Kier
in honor of *their children and grandchildren*

Betty King
in memory of *Gerry King*

Creighton, Christa, Carter, and Creighton Likes
in memory of *Thomas Haynes Morrow*

Creighton, Christa, Carter, and Creighton Likes
in memory of *Creighton E. Likes, Jr.*

Creighton, Christa, Carter, and Creighton Likes
in memory of *Ryan Spence Montgomery*

Charles & Janie Little
in memory of *Charles & Lucy Little*

Charles & Janie Little
in memory of *Bill & Peg Ranson*

Sarah & Brad Lucas Family
in memory of *Brad Whitlock*

Sarah & Brad Lucas Family
in memory of *Tommy Sinn*

The Marguet Family
in memory of *Nancy Billings*

Jon & Park McKnight
in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Laurence McKnight*

Susan & Dan McLeod
in memory of *Tommy Gower*

Susan & Dan McLeod
in honor of *The Reynolds Family*

The Meehan Family
in memory of *Pamela Capraruolo*

Bruce & Brenda Meyer
in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. William Meyer*

Bruce & Brenda Meyer
in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Foster Brown*