



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

Jesus, Good Shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold: Feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be whole, and lead us that we may be with you, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

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 *The Faithful Shepherd* Handel

Choral Introit 11:15a *In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* Berthier

* Call to Worship

Leader: We come to worship the risen Christ.

People: **Praise to Christ, the good shepherd!**

Leader: Alleluia, praise to Christ, the gate!

Alleluia, praise to Christ, the lamb!

People: **Alleluia, praise to Christ, our savior!
Christ is risen still!**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #246 *Christ Is Alive!* TRURO

* Prayer of Confession

God of community,

**you call us to a world radically different
from what we are used to.**

You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours."

**You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved,
and faithfulness is shown through generosity.**

**But we cling to our possessions,
trusting them more than we trust you.**

Forgive us, merciful God.

**Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm
and to work to make it so.**

**You are the good shepherd, calling us to repent and turn,
leading us to peace. Give us the courage to follow you. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

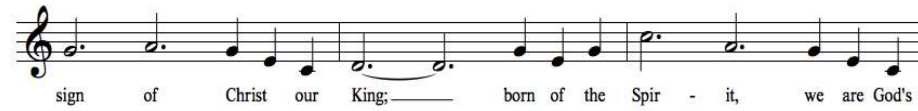
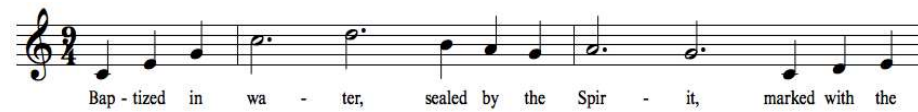
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

* 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 9a *Hallam Marchant Hepner*

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, *Psalm 23:1-6* p. 435

Gospel Lesson, *John 10:1-10* p. 872

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *"The Voice of a Stranger"*

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 *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 9a *The Twenty-Third Psalm* arr. McKenney

Anthem 11:15a *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* arr. Forrest

* 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

Recognition of New Members 11:15a

* Hymn #803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* RESIGNATION

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response 11:15a *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Lutkin

* Postlude *The Trumpets of Heaven* Paxton

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Lauren Slingerland, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Leigh Miller (9a), Sam White, Jr. (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Walker Miller (9a), LeAnne White (11:15a), *sponsors*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Judy McKenney (9a), *guitarist and soloist*

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

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

Ginny Reed, Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen,

Parks Workman, Nikki Grumbine (9a), *greeters*

Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer, Zach Freeman,

Russ Williams, Jacob Barker (11:15a), *greeters*

Salters Kelley (9a), James Knauer (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.

LIFE AT WPC:

SIGN UP FOR TEXT UPDATES

Wondering if weather will postpone an event? Need a reminder to sign up for a church-wide meal? Text "wpcgreenville" to (864)232-2424 to get up-to-date information about our life together! We promise we won't bombard you. Text today or follow the QR code.



Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning at the 9a worship service, we welcome into our fellowship *Hallam Marchant Hepner*, daughter of Ben & Marchie Hepner.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Henry Mark Richard Glowacki*, to Brian & Bayleigh Glowacki on October 15, 2022, in New Haven, CT.

Membership@WPC

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 9-10:30a this Sunday, April 30. Those who attend the class are invited to become members and be introduced during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Julia Watkins (jwatkins@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

Our Vision:

Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

Opportunities @WPC

HANDS ON GREENVILLE DAY

On Saturday, May 6, join folks from across our congregation to serve with a variety of local partners. There are projects for all ages and abilities. Morning and afternoon shifts are available, with morning shifts followed by lunch and a community-wide celebration at Fluor Field. Find more information and register by May 3 on WPC's website.



HOG Day

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties and sixties, will meet Saturday, May 6, at 6:30p at the home of Toni & John Paylor (107 Holbrook Trl). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's website ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Are you a worker bee with a gift for welcoming others? Join WPC's Hospitality Team! Volunteers receive regular invitations to help with receptions (including donuts!), meals, and other church-wide events. To sign up, contact Wendy Bagley (wendy@wpc-online.org).

PLEASANT VALLEY SUMMER CAMP

WPC is thrilled to partner with Pleasant Valley Connection's summer program again this year. We are looking for members to share their special skills/talents/hobbies with elementary-aged children at PVC. Volunteers will be with children one hour per week for at least two consecutive weeks. Complete the interest form on WPC's website to get connected. Questions? Contact Julia Watkins.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

We would like to list the names of our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office at 232-2424. The names will be listed in the **June 11** Harbinger.

Name: _____

School: _____

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Our Children's Church attendance is growing and we need your help! Volunteering with Children's Church is a wonderful and fun opportunity to get to know our Kindergartners and First Graders. We are looking for at least three helping hands for each Sunday during the 11:15 service. Usually about 25-30 children attend. It is an EASY way to nurture our children. A pastor leads the lesson and you provide a craft or supervise playtime in the room or the gym. Please contact Lindsey Donlan or Lauren Slingerland for more information. Thank you for considering!

WPC BOOK CLUB

The WPC book club will meet on Tuesday, May 2, at 7p in the church library. Talitha Allen will lead the discussion of *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. All are welcome!

YOUTH PARENT MEETING SUNDAY, MAY 7

We will hold a meeting open to all youth and their parents, including rising 6th grade families, on Sunday, May 7 following worship. We will meet in Room 209 from 11:15-noon. The meeting will cover information about all summer trips, including our Back-to-School Retreat at Look Up Lodge on August 19/20. We will also address the expectations and values of WPCYG and some of the fun activities we will have this summer.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, May 15, at 7p in the Charter Room. Lucy Stewart will lead the discussion of *How the Bible Actually Works: In Which I Explain How an Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers - and Why That's Great News*, by Peter Enns. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
April 30 – May 7, 2023

Sunday, April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Men of Westminster Retreat at Montreat

9:00a Worship Service
New Member Class
Library Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:15p New Member Reception
4:45 Youth Choir Rehearsal
5:30 WPCYG Celebrates the Journey

Monday, May 1

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, May 2

12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting
Al-Anon
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, May 3

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

Thursday, May 4

10:00a Thursday Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, May 6

Hands on Greenville Day

6:00p Lightly Seasoned Group

Sunday, May 7

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00a Membership Committee Meeting
9:55 Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 After Worship Fellowship with donuts
11:15 Youth Parent Meeting

FINAL SPRING SUNDAY SCHOOL
APRIL 30, 2023

- **Joy in Chains: A Chapter-by-Chapter Study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians**
Leigh Stuckey – Room 209
- **Global Warming, Climate Change, and Potential Christian Responses**
John MacCarthy - Room 212
- **Final Class for All Youth and Children**

the **HARBINGER**
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Bryan Atkins

Psalm 23:1-6 is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. It teaches us that Jesus is with us no matter what happens in our lives. Through faith in Jesus, He takes care of us despite the many trials and challenges that may come our way. Have you ever wondered why dreadful things happen to you at a certain moment in time, but only later did you find how much happier you were if not for that unfortunate event?

One may ask, "God, how could you let this happen?"

As time moves on, one may realize that the broken relationship needs to end to make you a better person to prepare for meeting your new husband, wife, or partner in your life. The loss of your current job needed to happen to have the new job that has more meaning and satisfaction. The loss of a friend to cancer happened to inspire you to drive towards living each day as if it is your last all the while making you a staunch supporter for the fight against cancer.

Despite this pain, Jesus has a plan and is still with us. By keeping the faith in him, he has a greater plan for us where his goodness and mercy will always shine.

I believe that when "the awful" comes our way, this is God's way of reminding us to appreciate what he has given us each day.

In the book, *The Magic*, by Rhonda Byrne, it talks about how to change the direction of a difficult day in our lives by thinking thoughts of gratefulness.

Gratefulness for our health, our job, our families, our homes, our pets, our hands, our eyes, our ears, our arms, and the list of items to be grateful for goes on and on. I am a big believer in the practice of saying to yourself at least twelve times or more every day, "I am forever grateful, Jesus, and thank you for..."

Next time you are having a hideous day, try it, and I promise you will begin to feel better while changing the trajectory of your day with these positive affirmations and good thoughts. Jesus gave us the gift and sacrifice of His life so that goodness and mercy will follow us throughout our lives and for that reason we should all be super grateful indeed.