



Sixth Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

O Christ, our lives and our world seem too tangled and complicated. Help us to desire nothing else but that you will always be present to us, and that we may always be present to you. 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 *Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major* Bach

Choral Introit *For You, My God I Wait* Ward

* Call to Worship

Leader: In God we find our peace.
People: God fills our souls.
 Leader: In God we find rest.
People: God calls us to lay aside our burdens.
 Leader: In God we find a safe place to land.
All: God welcomes us, just as we are. Let us worship God!

* Hymn #409 *God Is Here!* ABBOT'S LEIGH

* Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, when our spirits despair
 and we deny our blessedness, have mercy on us.
 When we ignore the mighty things you have done,
 when we doubt your mercy, forgive us.
 When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,
 when our power rests on the oppression of others,
 when our wealth causes others to go hungry,
 lead us back to your way.
 Look upon us with grace, mighty God,
 so that we would live secure in your love;
 we would be the ones of peace for our world,
 we would seek to do your will, in the pattern of Jesus Christ.
 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.

Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Psalms 131* p. 500

New Testament Lesson, *Acts 3:1-10* p. 886

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Once"

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 *For You, My God, I Wait* Ward

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

Offertory *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. Shackley

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

**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

Welcoming of the 2023 Class of Confirmands

<i>Lilly Gault Abdella</i>	<i>Parker Alan Godwin</i>	<i>James Spencer Ream</i>
<i>Thomas McFall Anderson</i>	<i>Peyton Anne Godwin</i>	<i>Sarah Moss Sanders</i>
<i>Rollins Lucille Beck</i>	<i>Evan David Keable</i>	<i>Langley Sinclair Smith</i>
<i>Benjamin Foster Bloodworth</i>	<i>Amelia Catherine Kent</i>	<i>Caroline Abigail Thomasson</i>
<i>William Innes Bouton, IV</i>	<i>Henry Varnadoe Kent</i>	<i>Kate Aiken Tiller</i>
<i>Lillian Grace Coker</i>	<i>Elizabeth Coleman Kirven</i>	<i>Emma Reese Tucker</i>
<i>Katy Ellen Cox</i>	<i>Amelia Aline Koch</i>	<i>Ian Ross Tucker</i>
<i>Emily Allison Craddock</i>	<i>Creighton Edward Likes, IV</i>	<i>Zachary Michael Warren</i>
<i>Maxwell Hugh Dennis</i>	<i>Bradley Mixon Lucas, Jr.</i>	<i>Sarah Katherine Jeanes White</i>
<i>Dennis John Doherty, IV</i>	<i>Katherine McCrae Mattice</i>	<i>Walker McMillan Williams</i>
<i>Benjamin Woods DuBose</i>	<i>Owen Parks McFadden</i>	<i>Alex Miller Woodhouse</i>
<i>Ellis McComb Farmer</i>	<i>Julian Xavier Monsell</i>	
<i>John Houston Gettys</i>	<i>Lane Fleming Palmer</i>	

Constitutional Questions

Baptisms *Thomas McFall Anderson*
Maxwell Hugh Dennis

The Blessing

Anthem *Write Your Blessed Name* Scott

The Welcome

Elder: These young people, by publicly professing their faith, have expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in their baptism. Let us welcome them as they join with us in the worship and mission of the Church.

People: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, in whom we are all one.

* Hymn #691 *Lord, When I Came into This Life* LAND OF REST

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Joyful Day* Hayes

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Jeff Reynolds, *sponsor*

Hunter Blouin, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

The Sanctuary Choir

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Susan Robbins, Zach Weaver, Zach Freeman,

George McLarty, Betsy Raines, *greeters*

Hayden Taylor, *acolyte*

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.

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

Celebrating Mother's Day with a gift to Presbyterian Communities of SC is a long standing tradition for SC Presbyterian churches. PCSC consists of six retirement facilities located throughout the state. The offering benefits residents who need financial assistance during their last years. Envelopes for this annual offering are located in the Ritual of Friendship folders. Make checks payable to WPC and designate them for PCSC. For information about PCSC, go to www.prescommunities.org.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate MARRIAGE

On Saturday, April 29, 2023, *Caroline Mayberry* and *Andrew Huang* were united in marriage in Greenville.

SPRING BBQ LUNCHEON

Next Sunday, May 21, everyone is invited to enjoy good food and fellowship at the spring all-church luncheon. Henry's BBQ and sides will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following 10a worship. \$12/adult; \$7/child; \$40/family max. Reserve your place online. Deadline to sign up is May 17.

Our Vision:

Open Minds Open Hearts	Our Pillars:	Our Goals:
	<i>Hospitality</i>	<i>Connect</i>
	<i>Generosity</i>	<i>Serve</i>
	<i>Justice</i>	<i>Grow</i>
	<i>Imagination</i>	
	<i>Joy</i>	

Opportunities @WPC

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will not meet on Monday, May 15.

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 10a 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!

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: _____

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, May 17, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Women of Westminster offers scholarships to provide financial aid among college and graduate student membership within our church. This year Westminster is also partnering with a local agency, Fostering Great Ideas, so that a matched portion of funds will support students in the foster care system. Any first-time applicants from Westminster who will be furthering their education in the fall are invited to apply within the application rules-see application online for details. Applications are available online at www.wpc-online.org or from the church office. Applicants may contact Jill Fairey (803)920-2071 with any questions. The deadline is Monday, June 26, 2023. Church members are reminded that memorials and donations may be designated to this scholarship fund to aid in its continuation.

LOW COUNTRY BOIL

Kick off the summer with shrimp, sausage, and plenty of stecca at WPC's Low Country Boil. Share in the fun at Magnetic South Brewery in Judson Mill (701 Eastley Bridge Rd. #4155, Greenville, 29611) on Sunday, June 4, from 5-7p. Families are welcome; childcare will not be provided. This event is free to the WPC community, but space is limited. RSVP on WPC's website. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Contact Julia Watkins or signup online to help.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 14-21, 2023

Sunday, May 14

Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Reception and Fellowship in Atrium

Monday, May 15

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, May 16

- 12:00p Al-Anon
- 7:00 Men of Westminster Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 17

- 12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
- 4:00 8th Grade Bible Study
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 18

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


Saturday, May 20

- 10:00a Foothills Presbytery Meeting

Sunday, May 21

Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Creation Stewardship Meeting
- 9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 BBQ Lunch
- 12:00p Stated Session Meeting



LIFE@WPC

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.

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Claire Gilliland

I've always liked the book of Acts in the Bible. The Gospels tell the good news of the life and ministry of Jesus, filled with stories of how Jesus flipped the script on the religious authorities and cared for those on the margins. Acts has plenty of inspiring examples, too, but it also has some messy parts. After Jesus is gone, how do the disciples figure out what to do next?

In the story for today, we see Peter heal a man who was unable to walk. Invoking the name of Jesus, Peter commands the man to rise up and walk; the man does just that and begins to celebrate. If we read on past verse 10, we hear Peter attribute the miracle not to his own power or piety, but to the glory of God. In the text, Peter seems confident that the healing power of Jesus would work through his words and restore this man's ability to walk.

I can't help but wonder if there were some early believers who were a little less confident as they navigated a world without Jesus. These were just ordinary people, after all, trying to live up to the example Jesus set, to build a community, and to spread the gospel. Surely some of them had their own doubts and fears, and maybe they asked the same questions that I've asked: With all of my flaws, should I really be the one to carry on the work of Jesus? Are you sure you want me, God?

On this Confirmation Sunday, maybe we can find some hope in the idea of anxious followers who probably did not have all the right words and actions figured out in these early days. They may have still had a lot of questions, as they'd heard only snippets about Jesus passed around their community. If asked to write Statements of Faith, they would have struggled to find the right words and might have a few asterisks on parts where they weren't quite certain. And yet, even with this doubt and uncertainty, the disciples were able to heal miraculously, to get more people interested in Jesus, and to learn how to live peacefully with each other.

To our new members of this body of faith, know that you are called and valued in this community, even as you work through your own questions. God can do miraculous things through each of us individually and through this body when we remember that it's not about our own power and knowledge, but God's.