



Seventh Sunday of Easter

Preparation for **Worship**

Open unto me: light for my darkness, courage for my fear, hope for my despair, peace for my turmoil, joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness, wisdom for my confusion, forgiveness for my sins, love for my hates, thy Self for my self. Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.

Howard Thurman

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 *Partita on "Royal Oak"* Jones

Choral Introit Psalm 47: "People Clap Your Hands" GENEVAN 47

* Call to Worship Revelation 5:13, 1:8

Leader: Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

People: **"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"**

Leader: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God.

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" CORONATION

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all.

We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives.

We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to glorify him with our love.

Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful witnesses like the first apostles.

Give us courage in the face of uncertainty, hope to fight the world's despair, and faith to trust that your love is sovereign over all.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

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

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

* Gloria Patri, Hymn 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

Gospel Lesson, Luke 24:50-53 p. 861

New Testament Lesson, Acts 1:6-14 p. 884

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "It Is Not for You to Know"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit give us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 Psalm 47: *Clap Your Hands* Al Fedak

* Doxology, Hymn 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 269 "Lead On, O King Etemall!" LANCASHIRE

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response Psalm 145: "O Lord, You Are My God and King" Jerusalem

* Postlude *All Creatures of Our God and King* Shackley

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Kathleen Reynolds, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organ, piano*

The Sanctuary Choir

Ross Glidewell, *head usher*

Neil Shurley, Keith Stevenson, Lesley Usher,

LeAnne White, Susan Grier, *greeters*

Ellen Reynolds, Capitola Riley, *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.

**Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts**

**Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy**

**Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow**

In Memoriam

Hays Reynolds
(10/20/1951 - 5/11/2023)

Sam Inman
(11/16/1934 - 5/15/2023)

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

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate MARRIAGE

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, Sandra Holtzclaw Godfrey and Edward Dobson were united in marriage in Greenville.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, June 4, the WPC Finance Committee will provide a report on our final 2022 financials and the 2023 budget. We will meet in the sanctuary immediately following worship. All WPC members are invited to attend.

SUMMER CHOIR!

Would you like to sing in the choir but don't know if you can make the time commitment during the regular season? Summer Choir provides a commitment-free opportunity to give the choir a try - whether you want to take a "test run" or simply sing without the commitment of a midweek rehearsal. For each Sunday in June, the Summer Choir will gather in the choir room at 9a to learn and rehearse a choral anthem and the service music for 10a worship. All you need to do to participate is show up! If you would like more information, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music at mhurst@wpc-online.org.

Opportunities @WPC

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 - deadline for this info is **June 4**.

Name: _____

School graduating from: _____

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

Men of Westminster will meet at 6p on Thursday, May 25, at Blockhouse (1619 Augusta St., 29605). All men are invited to attend. No RSVP needed.

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 Easley 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 21-28, 2023

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

Monday, May 22

- 5:00p Personnel Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, May 23

- 12:00p Al-Anon
- 6:00 Women of Westminster Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 24

- 4:00 8th Grade Bible Study
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal


Thursday, May 25

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, May 28

Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Creation Stewardship Meeting
- 9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
with communion
- 11:00 Donut Fellowship



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, Scott & Susan Clark

For Lana –

We were at a wedding when we learned that there was going to be a funeral. Two important, red-letter days separated by a week and just over 800 miles. The wedding was at the beach while the funeral was on the coast. A distinction without a difference you say, but a distinction, nonetheless.

At the wedding, we attended a joyous gathering of friends, family and well-wishers, featuring a bride with sparkles in her eyes. A minister spoke the words of God to assure all of the presence of God and the beginning of something.

At the funeral, we attended a gathering of friends, family and well-wishers which did in fact include bouts of joy on the recollection of a shared memory or on the reuniting of those long separated. But overall, a gathering that was shaded by a pall of sadness for the mother of two who had lit up the sky in her 51 too short years. A priest spoke the words of God to assure all of the presence of God and the end of something.

Acts 1:7 reads, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority." Indeed that seems to be true.

You may have heard this or can find it a couple of different ways on the internet – an essay, a poem or an anecdote – about how one should look at a tombstone and identify what is important. Turns out, it's neither the birth date – the beginning of something – nor the death date – the end of something – but rather it's the dash between the two. Contained in that dash is everything a person ever loved, every kind word spoken, every altruistic gesture performed, every feat, each mistake, every joy or disappointment they got to experience, the sound of a loved one's voice, a favorite meal, all their hopes and dreams. It's in that time between the beginning of a thing and the end of a thing – two red letter days – that life happens. The important stuff.

Funny that we treat the beginning of a thing and the end of a thing as the time to gather for ceremony. When the important stuff happens – the days that make up most of your life – it usually occurs without your realization, much less a ceremony. I mean, you do not fall in love with your spouse on your wedding day. It happens a hundred other times and in the smallest of ways.

As life goes on and piles up on routine and familiarity, it's easy to forget that every day we get on earth is a gift. But in fact, we are promised no future, no tomorrows. It is after all not for us to know the dates and the times.

When these ceremonies – weddings and funerals – are done right, they stir in the attendees more than just feelings of joy, anticipation, grief and remembrance. These two were done right. For when we left both the wedding and the funeral, we were charged with renewed focus to strive to make every day a red-letter day regardless the occasion.