



Trinity Sunday

Preparation for **Worship**

O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help; in all our uncertainties your guidance; in all our dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Augustine of Hippo

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 *This Is My Father's World* Foss

* Call to Worship Psalm 139

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
 Where can I go from your spirit?
 Where can I flee from your presence?
**People: If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
 if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

Leader: If I take the wings of the morning
 and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
**People: even there your hand shall lead me,
 and your right hand shall hold me fast.**
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON

* Prayer of Confession
**Eternal God, our creator, redeemer, and sustainer,
 we confess that we have tried to hide from you.
 We have lived for ourselves and apart from you.
 We have turned from our neighbors,
 and refused to bear the burdens of others.
 We have ignored the pain of the world,
 and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.
 In your loving kindness,
 forgive our sins and free us from our self-indulgence.
 Grant us open minds to hear your call clearly,
 and grant us open hearts
 so that we would respond with courage. 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.**

The Sacrament of Baptism *Hudson James Jennings*

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
 marked with the sign of Christ our King,
 born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
 joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination
 Gospel Lesson, *Luke 15:11-20* p. 850
 Old Testament Lesson, *Jonah 1:1-17* p. 752

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *"Born to Run"*

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.****

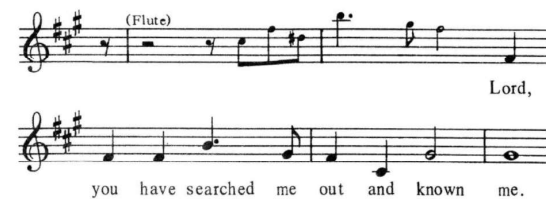
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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 Psalm 139: *Lord, You Have Searched Me* Hurd

Please sing the refrain as invited.



* 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 702 "Christ Be Beside Me" BUNESSAN
 * Charge and Benediction
 * Response Hymn 746 "Send Me Jesus" THUMA MINA
Please sing stanza 2 as invited.
 * Postlude *Come Holy Ghost, God, and Lord* Ore
**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
 Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*
 Jacob Barker, *sponsor*
 Todd Monsell, *organ, piano*
 Rosemary Hughes, *flute*
 Brad Hawkins *head usher*
 Marian Carpenter, Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer,
 Walker Miller, Emily Cole, *greeters*
 Elizabeth Workman, Mary Wayne Workman, *acolytes*

Worship Notes

LIFT UP YOUR VOICE

Over the next two Sundays the congregation will be invited to participate in the offertory music. Each week a simple instruction will be included in the Harbinger at the appropriate point in the service. You are encouraged to lift your voices in song!

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. The Women's Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caretaker and includes worship livestream, comfortable seating, and a changing table.

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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Hudson James Jennings*, son of Corey & Kaley Jennings.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
 JUNE 11

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, June 11, immediately following the 10a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the Session's recommendation that we purchase the property on which the current Gantt Uniform Shop resides. The Finance Committee will also provide an update on the 2022 end-of-year financials, and the 2023 budget. There will be no meeting on June 4 (as was originally publicized).

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!

WPC BOOK CLUB

The WPC book club will meet on Tuesday, June 6, at 7p in the church library. Ellen Stevenson will lead the discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. All are welcome!

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, June 19, at 7p in the Charter Room. Julia Watkins will lead the discussion of *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development*, by B. Hunter Farrell. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

THORNWELL SUMMER PARTY

Join in some fun in the sun with Thornwell! On Sunday afternoon, June 25, WPC will host a summer party on Thornwell's campus in Clinton, SC. Guests will be around 50 youth and host families participating in Thornwell's transitional living program. Volunteers will carpool to Clinton to run games, grill burgers and hot dogs, and hang out with youth by the pool. Register through the website.

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: _____

CONNECTIONS LUNCH GROUP

The Connections Lunch Group will meet Sunday, June 11, at Firebirds Grill (1025 Woodruff Rd.) at 11:45a - following the 10a summer worship service. RSVP to ruthjohnst51@gmail.com by Friday, June 9. Newcomers are always welcome!

YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

Throughout the summer, we have various opportunities for youth to engage in fun and fellowship. Calendars can be found on Instagram (@wpc_yg) and hard copies are in the atrium and outside of the main office. All events require registration on our website. Rising 6th graders are invited to join us for the Drive Game on 8/2. We hope to see you this summer!

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
SCHOLARSHIP

Each year Women of Westminister offers scholarships to provide financial aid among college and graduate student membership within our church. This year Westminister 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 Westminister 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.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
June 4-11, 2023

Sunday, June 4

Trinity Sunday
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Donut Fellowship
5:00p Low Country Boil

Monday, June 5

Weekday School Closed
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, June 6

12:00p Al-Anon
7:00 WPC Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, June 7

5:00p Senior Highs at Judson Mill

Thursday, June 8

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, June 10

6:00a Senior Highs depart to New Mexico (thru June 17)

Sunday, June 11

Second Sunday after Pentecost
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Congregational Meeting
11:20 Donut Fellowship
11:45 Connections Group



Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Christa Likes

Jonah 1: 1-17

When I read this passage, I immediately think of one of my favorite childhood Disney movies, *Pinocchio*. I vividly remember the scene where Pinocchio and Geppetto are trapped inside Monstro, the whale. My favorite scene was when Pinocchio and his father build a fire, causing the whale to sneeze. This allows them to escape the whale and start their lives over together. So why did Jonah end up in the belly of the "large fish" just like Pinocchio did? And what does this mean for us today?

In the book of Jonah, Jonah is commanded by God to go to the city of Nineveh to preach to the people there. The Ninevites were part of the Assyrian Empire and were leading lives filled with wickedness, cruelty, and sin. They were known to skin their enemies, gouge out the eyes or cut off the ears of defeated soldiers to make their lives miserable. Maybe worst of all, they were known to kill children in the cities they conquered. In other words, Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, for which he had good reason.

Was Jonah running away because he feared the people of Nineveh? That seemed to be my initial thought. However, when I looked a little closer, maybe Jonah didn't want to go because he knew that God would show these people his amazing grace? Maybe he was scared to death that these awful people, who deserve death and punishment, would get a reprieve?

Do we relate to this in any way? It is such an uncomfortable subject to think about. We like to think that we, as loving and forgiving Christians, are supportive of EVERYONE receiving God's grace. We seem to be comfortable with the idea that everyone needs Jesus but do we fully support the idea that everyone needs or deserves God's grace?

The truth is, God is not likely calling us to enter a foreign country to preach to evil people, but he might be calling us to love the unlovable. It is hard to admit this to ourselves. Is it possible that we really are less "grace-filled" than we think? Maybe today we stop and ask God for forgiveness and the ability to love those who are hard for us to love. Miracles can happen, can't they?