



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the conflicted find peace, and the broken find healing. In this place today, O Lord, may we all be found by your grace. 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 *Fugue in D Major* Pachelbel

* Call to Worship Psalm 90:1-2, 12, 14

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
 People: **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Leader: Teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.
 People: **Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 307 "God of Grace and God of Glory" CWM RHONDDA

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, forgive us for thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. We have clung to the values of a broken world, measuring profits and seeking pleasure, while ignoring the poor, the broken, and the needy. The fears and jealousies we harbor keep our neighbors at arm's length. We are afraid to love the stranger, and hesitant to offer grace to those whom we deem undeserving. Have mercy on us, Holy One. Renew our courage today, so that we would be willing to love unconditionally, give sacrificially, and follow your Son faithfully. 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, *Matthew 20:1-16* p. 801

Old Testament Lesson, *Jonah 4:1-11* p. 753

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Most Successful Prophet in the Bible"

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 *Amazing Grace* arr. Proulx
The text for the offertory may be found in the hymnal, no. 649.

* Doxology #606 OLD HUNDREDDTH

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 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" IN BABILONE

* Charge and Benediction

* Response Hymn 746 "Send Me Jesus" THUMA MINA
Please sing stanza 2 as invited.

* Postlude *Passacaglia* Young

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Charlie Jones, *guest organist*

Lauren Vaughn, *flute*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Jeff Reynolds, Susan Robbins, Zach Weaver,

Walker Miller, Stan Pendergrass, *greeters*

Mary Eliza Duncan, Sawyer Rentz, *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. 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.

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.

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate MARRIAGE

On Thursday, June 15, 2023, *Elise Cross* and *Taylor Carsten* were united in marriage at Westminster.

SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir will be on hiatus in July but will return on August 6 for the month of August.

WINDOWS OF OUR FAITH

In 2022, to mark 75 years of faithfulness to God's call on our congregation, the 75th Committee commissioned an installation to hi-light the stories of faith embedded in our stained glass windows. Thanks to the creative imagination of Bill Donohue and Emanate Brands, alongside the work of photographer Matthew Franklin Carter and Becca Donohue at TPM, the 200-hall is now illuminated with to-scale models of the stained glass windows. We encourage you to spend time learning about the design of the windows; to imagine them as guided devotionals that anchor you to this place and animate your own sense of faithfulness to God's call.

A GENTLE REMINDER

Summer is an opportunity for vacations, the beach, and time with family and friends. But even when we are away, the church remains active, with our children and youth ministries going strong, the weekday school running throughout the summer, and numerous outside groups using our facilities. In addition, our mission partners depend on us all year long. If possible, we ask you to consider keeping your giving up to date. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to God's work at Westminster.

Opportunities @WPC

THORNWELL SUMMER PARTY

Join in some fun in the sun with Thornwell! This 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.

WPC KIDS EVENTS

POPSICLES IN THE PARK, JULY 12

Children ages 0-10 and their grownups are invited to join us at 10a at Rockwood Park (398 Meyers Drive) for a morning of play with other WPC families. Popsicles will be provided!

IT'S ELEMENTARY

This year It's Elementary will be learning about the seasons of the church year. Our theme is, "Ordinary, Extraordinary." There are many ways to nurture our children in this unique, after school ministry on Wednesdays. If you are interested in learning more about those roles contact Lauren Slingerland or Caroline Blouin.

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 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.

GREENVILLE LITERACY

Westminster is a collection site for "The Really Good, Really Big, Really Cheap Book Sale" of the Greenville Literacy Association. The collection bin is located at the church office entrance. Deadline for this year's book donations is Thursday, July 13. For more information and a listing of donatable items, visit www.greenvilleliteracy.org.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
June 25 - July 2, 2023

Sunday, June 25
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Donut Fellowship
11:15 All Youth Lunch/Hike

Monday, June 26
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, June 27
12:00p AI-Anon

Thursday, June 29
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, June 30

Saturday, July 1

Sunday, July 2
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Donut Fellowship



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, Mike Peters

Most of us are very familiar with the story of Jonah and the whale. In that oft-told story Jonah is fleeing from God, unwilling to heed His call to go to the city of Nineveh and preach against its wickedness. Of course, despite his efforts Jonah reluctantly does end up in Nineveh and the Ninevites repent. In today's passage, Jonah is not running from God, but confronting Him over the compassion and mercy He shows to the Ninevites. Jonah is angry with God because he believes God is not acting fairly.

I imagine that at one time or another all of us may have been angry with God. Upset that God does not act as we desire. Perhaps someone "unworthy" has gotten a position we aspired to. Perhaps we have seen someone "undeserving" thrive, while another more "deserving" person languishes. Perhaps an illness has affected someone we love, while others "less deserving" remain in robust health. Perhaps an important relationship has gone awry, while we see others appear content. Where is God in all this? It all seems so unfair.

Jonah saw this too! He saw the "undeserving" residents of Nineveh saved by God, and he lashed out at God in anger. He could not understand why God would show compassion and mercy to Nineveh, an archenemy of Israel. To make matters worse, God even chose to take away Jonah's meager shelter. To Jonah, God's actions were extremely unfair. God chose to reward the sinners of Nineveh, while Jonah his follower felt tortured. In response to this anger God reminded Jonah that His ultimate care and concern extends to all, even the "undeserving" Ninevites.

Likewise, today God understands our anger over the unfairness we may experience in life. Yet, as with the Ninevites, God continues to remind us that his forgiveness, compassion and mercy extend to all, even those who appear "undeserving" to us. God's compassion and mercy is good news indeed as all of us at one time or another miss the mark. We should thank God for this good news and endeavor to show compassion and mercy to others, regardless of whether it seems fair.