



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“It wasn't holy hell that God gave him, in other words, but holy heaven, not to mention the marvelous lesson thrown in for good measure. The lesson was, needless to say, that even for a dyed-in-the-wool, double-barreled con artist like Jacob there are a few things in this world you can't get but can only be given, and one of these things is love in general, and another is the love of God in particular [...] Another part of the lesson was that, luckily for Jacob, God doesn't love people because of who they are, but because of who God is. "It's on the house" is one way of saying it and "It's by grace" is another, just as it was by grace that it was Jacob of all people who became not only the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, but the many-times great-grandfather of Jesus of Nazareth, and just as it was by grace that Jesus of Nazareth was born into this world at all.”

— Frederick Buechner, *Peculiar Treasures*

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 *Pianosong* Halley

Call to Worship Psalm 100

Leader: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
 Worship the Lord with gladness.
 Come into God's presence with singing!

**People: For the Lord is a gracious God,
 whose mercy is everlasting;
 and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.
 Let us worship God.**

* Hymn 403 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" UNSER HERRSCHER

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy and merciful God,
 in your presence we confess our sinfulness,
 our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.
 You alone know how often we have sinned
 in wandering from your ways,
 in wasting your gifts,
 in forgetting your love.
 In your great mercy forgive our sins
 and free us from selfishness,
 that we may choose your will
 and obey your commandments;
 through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 *Claire Elizabeth Riley and Thomas Bennett Riley*

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Genesis 28:10-17* p. 22

Second Scripture Lesson, *Genesis 27:41-44* p. 21

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Night Terrors: Descent"

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 *Lord of the Small* Forrest

* 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 676 "Day Is Done" AR HYD Y NOS

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Marche* Lefébure-Wély

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Julia Watkins, *liturgist*

Susan Grier, *sponsor*

Jade Fountain, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *pianist and soloist*

Clay Smoak, *head usher*

Jacob Barker, Anne Howson, Lindsey Donlan,

Meg McKnight, Zach Freeman, *greeters*

Preston Lancaster, *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. 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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISMS

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Claire Elizabeth Riley and Thomas Bennett Riley, children of Josh & Allison Riley.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Luke Michael Oswald*, to Michael & Lindsay Oswald on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Fielding Dillard Wyeth*, to Stuart & Mary Katherine Wyeth on Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

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

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. It's Elementary registration is required and will close on July 31. Visit the church website to register!

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!

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, July 19, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (Imaryanncox@gmail.com).

LIGHTLY SEASONED GROUP

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties and sixties, will meet Saturday, July 22, at 6:30p at the home of Gaye & Joel Sprague (10 Grey St). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's web site ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

EDUCATION IN AUGUST:
COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Missing Sunday morning education this summer? Join us each Sunday in August at 9a in the Entrance Pavilion for an informal time of discussion and Biblical exploration led by Westminster's pastors. We'll read the lectionary text for the day and let the mood guide us in conversation. Buoying conversation will be coffee from WPC Mission Partner Cafe Justo (served by an excellent team of volunteers from the 2023 Mexico Witness & Service trip). Children are welcome to open gym time, supervised by two members of the WPC Kids Nursery team.

PROJECT HOST
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for ways to serve this summer? Join volunteers from both WPC and the wider community to lend a hand at the Project Host Soup Kitchen every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. Volunteers will prepare, serve, and clean up a meal for our vulnerable neighbors, many of whom are experiencing homelessness. This is a great way to extend hospitality while getting a glimpse of some of the inequities in our own backyard. Sign up on WPC's website.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

- Our Pillars:**
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

- Our Goals:**
Connect
Serve
Grow

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 16 - 23, 2023

Sunday, July 16

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Donut Fellowship

Monday, July 17

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, July 18

- 12:00p AI-Anon

Wednesday, July 19

- 12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
- 5:30 Senior Highs to Dinner/Movie

Thursday, July 20

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, July 22

- 6:30p Lightly Seasoned Group

Sunday, July 23

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Senior Highs to Montreat Youth Conference

- 9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Donut Fellowship

THE SESSION

The Class of 2024

<i>Hastings Blumer</i>	<i>Toni Paylor</i>
<i>Laura Cox</i>	<i>Neil Shurley</i>
<i>Jay Culclasure</i>	<i>Keith Stevenson</i>
<i>Ross Glidewell</i>	<i>Lesley Usher</i>
<i>Jara Jones</i>	<i>LeAnne White</i>
<i>Meg McKnight</i>	<i>Russ Williams</i>

The Class of 2025

<i>Jacob Barker</i>	<i>Nikki Grumbine</i>
<i>Marian Carpenter</i>	<i>Bill Holt</i>
<i>Lindsey Donlan</i>	<i>Ginny Reed</i>
<i>Carroll Farmer</i>	<i>Jordan Smith</i>
<i>Zach Freeman</i>	<i>Tom Vanderbloemen</i>
<i>Susan Grier</i>	<i>Parks Workman</i>

The Class of 2026

<i>Emily Cole</i>	<i>Walker Miller</i>
<i>Ingrid Erwin</i>	<i>Stan Pendergrass</i>
<i>Roger Gower</i>	<i>Betsy Raines</i>
<i>Amy Hawkins</i>	<i>Jeff Reynolds</i>
<i>Anne Howson</i>	<i>Susan Robbins</i>
<i>George McLarty</i>	<i>Zach Weaver</i>

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Derek Pitman

There are times in life when we are at a complete loss. We don't know what to do, where to go, or how to find the answers. These moments can be bigger and more imposing than even getting married or deciding to buy a house or a car; at least we have agency in those decisions. The moments we don't know how to navigate offer stress in their uncertainty and no timeline for when they may offer us any reprieve. When faced with these situations, I seek counsel from friends and family. I turn to people I trust who may offer a sympathetic ear, or perhaps even who may help find a solution.

When we pick up the story of Jacob's ladder, Jacob's mother, Rebekah, has just sent him away to protect him after learning of her other son Esau's plan to kill his brother out of jealousy. Jacob heads to Haran by himself to flee his brother. That was a long walk with plenty of time to stew over his predicament, and I doubt sleep came easily. Familial death threats have that effect.

Jacob didn't have anyone to turn to in that moment of stress, anguish, and fear. He didn't have anyone to vent to who might reassure him. He may have been anxious over having to let his guard down to sleep. Once he began to dream, though, he received that reassurance he undoubtedly craved. Jacob saw God standing above a stairway, and God told Jacob his plan for him. How would you feel waking from a dream in which you saw God, heard God tell you his grand plan for you, and saw angels walking up and down a literal stairway to heaven?" Jacob must have walked a little taller once he woke up. God promises to stay with each of us and to protect us, and we can be confident in His promise for us. I think we should all walk a little taller in life knowing God is with us and has a plan for our lives.