



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Almighty and gracious God, since our whole salvation stands in our knowledge of your holy word, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that our hearts may be freed from the chains of sin, so that we may hear and receive your word, recognizing your gracious will for us. Teach us by scripture to love and serve you with delight, praising and glorifying you in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

John Calvin

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 *Largo* Vivaldi, arr. Wolff

* Call to Worship Psalm 96:1-2

Leader: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

People: Give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

Leader: Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

People: I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 394 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" WESTMINSTER ABBEY

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we have failed to follow your will and walk in your way.

Far too often, we have neglected justice and been apathetic about the common good.

We are lazy when it comes to loving our neighbor.

We gravitate toward goals that are convenient, instead of showing your love through service and sacrifice.

Forgive us, O Lord, and help us

to be your obedient children once again.

Grant us hearts that are grateful and souls that are gentle, so that by your grace, we would be the presence of Christ for every person we meet.

It is in his holy name that 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Charlotte Laura Powell

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

Epistle Lesson, *Hebrews 4:12-13*

p. 972

Gospel Lesson, *Matthew 5:17-18, 38-48*

p. 786

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "How Did Jesus Read 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 *Teach Me, O Lord* Attwood

* Doxology #606 OLD HUNDREDTH
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 203 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" CHEREPONI

* Charge and Benediction

* Choral Response, Hymn 656 "We've Come This Far by Faith" THIS FAR BY FAITH
 Please join the Summer Choir in singing.

* Postlude *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* Callahan
 *All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preacher*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Meg McKnight, *sponsor*

David Golladay, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

The Summer Choir

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Laura Cox, Hastings Blumer, Jay Culclasure,

Ross Glidewell, Stan Pendergrass, *greeters*

Sawyer Rentz, Gretchen Cleveland, *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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISMS

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Charlotte Laura Powell, daughter of Michael and Kaley Powell.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Bennett Leland Pile*, to Quintin and Molly Pile on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

We Remember in Prayer

Mike Eller on the death of his mother, Kathy Genevie, in Abbeville, South Carolina - 8/11/2023.

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.

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.

Opportunities @WPC

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday morning Bible study began on August 17. All are welcome to join in the study at 10a in the Charter Room as Ben leads discussion about the upcoming Sunday's scripture texts.

WESTCONNECT

You're encouraged to participate in WestConnect, a ministry of small groups that share life, pray, and study together. The next six-week season launches in October and will focus on the Apostles' Creed. Groups meet throughout the week. Complete the interest form on WPC's website or in the Ritual of Friendship to get involved.

SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir is in session throughout the month of August. To participate, simply be present in the sanctuary at 9a each Sunday in August to rehearse the choral music for the day. For more information, contact Marlon Hurst.

WEEKLY SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS

Weekly Sanctuary Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, August 23 at 7p in the Choir Room. Participation in the Sanctuary Choir is open to all who desire to take part. Contact Marlon Hurst for more information.

JR. AND SR. CHORISTERS REGISTRATION

Registration for Junior (grades 1-2) and Senior (grades 3-5) Choristers is now open on the website! Choirs meet from 4:30-5:15p on Wednesdays. Senior Choristers may also sign up to be an acolyte in Sunday worship. Parent volunteers are needed to assist Sunday morning acolytes on a rotating basis.

MOVIE GROUP

Westminster's Movie Group welcomes anyone who enjoys seeing good movies and having lively discussions. The group generally meets monthly on a Sunday afternoon, but meetings depend on movie availability and schedule. Announcements are not made in the Harbinger because the movie schedule is often uncertain until the week before the Sunday we want to attend. Anyone interested in joining the group can contact Susan Robbins (jamrobbins@aol.com). She will add your name to the group's email list and will send out emails to arrange gatherings when an appropriate movie is in the theaters. The group always welcomes new members, and guests are always invited to attend.

PLEASANT VALLEY CONNECTION TUTORS

Looking to get (or stay) more involved with Pleasant Valley Connection? Like last year, we are partnering with their after school program to provide individual tutors during the school year. Tutors are matched with a student for the entire school year. Volunteer times are Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 3:45-4:45p with 30 minute or full hour slots available. Please contact Lauren Slingerland or Anna Hanor for more information.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, September 10, at 4:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

THE HARBINGER
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160)
Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Street, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

Church Staff

Ben Dorr
Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey
Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan
Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland
Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Terri Price
Parish Associate
tprice@wpc-online.org

Marlon Hurst
Director of Music
mhurst@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell
Organist
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch
Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

David Edwards
Business Administrator
dedwards@wpc-online.org

Lynn Bennett
Financial Manager
lbennett@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 20 - 27, 2023

Sunday, August 20

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Youth to Look Up Lodge

9:00a Coffee & Conversation
Membership Committee Meeting

9:40 Sunday Session Meeting

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 Donut Fellowship

11:15 Stated Session Meeting

Monday, August 21

3:45p Pleasant Valley Connection
Tutor Training

8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 22

12:00p AI-Anon

Wednesday, August 23

2:30p It's Elementary

4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 24

10:00a Thursday Bible Study

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, August 26

3:00p Middler Choir Kick-Off

4:00 Sr. High Choir Kick-Off

6:00 Sanctuary Choir Kick-Off

Sunday, August 27

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Coffee & Conversation
Sunday School Teacher Training

9:40 Sunday Session Meeting

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 Donut Fellowship

5:30p Youth Group Class Dinners

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | August 20, 2023 | No. 17

From the Pews, John MacCarthy

Matthew 5:17-18, 38-48.

Today's lectionary reading is part of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 through 7), which serves as a centerpiece for Jesus' moral teachings. I find it to be one of the more challenging portions of Christian Scriptures. The bottom line is literally the bottom line: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mat 5:48)

I have always thought that Jesus gave us a New Covenant that focused on loving God, loving other people, and caring for the poor, the sick, and the powerless; and that, according to Paul, God's grace and our faith in Jesus freed us from the 613 commandments that made up "The Law" (for a list of these, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/613_commandments).

Unfortunately, that is not what Jesus says. Rather, he says: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven." (Mat 5:17-19)

As I read over "The Law," it strikes me that, if I am lucky, I will be one of the least in the kingdom of heaven. I imagine that these teachings of Jesus may have been partially responsible for the disagreement between Paul and Peter over whether Gentiles who failed to follow The Law should be permitted into the faith.

But Jesus does not stop here, he goes on to say that we must be better than The Law. He says "Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also" (Mat 5:39); "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Mat 5:44); and "Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you" (Mat 5:42).

I do not know which is harder, following 613 commandments or following these last three teachings. Given the hopelessness with which I view these teachings to be perfect, I am grateful for a faith that teaches me that I am saved by God's grace, through my faith.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BACK TO THE BASICS, PART II “WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE ABOUT...”

This fall, we will return to our sermon series, “Back to the Basics.” Last spring, we discussed the basics of Presbyterian theology and compared our beliefs with those of other Christian denominations, such as what Presbyterians mean when we talk about being “saved.”

This time around, we will examine the beliefs and values of our tradition that have multiple interpretations within our tradition. For example, do all Presbyterians believe the same thing about the Bible? What about war? Or tithing? Or miracles, suffering, sabbath, or what makes a good life? What do we do when the Bible itself presents different answers to the same questions? What are the boundaries of our beliefs when it comes to issues that don’t always have clear answers?

The aim of this sermon series is threefold:

- a) to find common ground within our beliefs about challenging topics;
- b) to identify places where we can “agree to disagree” with one another;
- c) to create space for our faith to grow, especially when more than one answer to a question can be a faithful answer.

“Back to the Basics: Part II” will begin this Sunday, August 20.

KICK-OFF BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for Kick-Off Sunday, September 10. The cost is \$12.50 per adult (ages 12+) and \$7.50 per child (ages 6-11). There is no cost for children under the age of 6. Register online (wpc-online.org) for breakfast.

- 9a Breakfast
- 10a Sunday School
- 11:15a Worship

On September 17, we'll resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

SUPPERS WITH SEVEN: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2023

The summer vacation season is drawing to a close and it's time to get back into regular schedules. Are you ready to get back together with Westminster members? What about enjoying meals with other Westminster members? Suppers With Seven is seven persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals. It is a great way to establish or renew relationships with other Westminster members. To sign up, return this form to the church office or fill out the form on the church website. The deadline to sign up is Monday, August 28.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check one: _____ I/We would be willing to host a first gathering.
_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering, but would consider a subsequent one. _____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BACK TO THE BASICS, PART II “WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE ABOUT...”

This fall, we will return to our sermon series, “Back to the Basics.” Last spring, we discussed the basics of Presbyterian theology and compared our beliefs with those of other Christian denominations, such as what Presbyterians mean when we talk about being “saved.”

This time around, we will examine the beliefs and values of our tradition that have multiple interpretations within our tradition. For example, do all Presbyterians believe the same thing about the Bible? What about war? Or tithing? Or miracles, suffering, sabbath, or what makes a good life? What do we do when the Bible itself presents different answers to the same questions? What are the boundaries of our beliefs when it comes to issues that don’t always have clear answers?

The aim of this sermon series is threefold:

- a) to find common ground within our beliefs about challenging topics;
- b) to identify places where we can “agree to disagree” with one another;
- c) to create space for our faith to grow, especially when more than one answer to a question can be a faithful answer.

“Back to the Basics: Part II” will begin this Sunday, August 20.

KICK-OFF BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for Kick-Off Sunday, September 10. The cost is \$12.50 per adult (ages 12+) and \$7.50 per child (ages 6-11). There is no cost for children under the age of 6. Register online (wpc-online.org) for breakfast.

- 9a Breakfast
- 10a Sunday School
- 11:15a Worship

On September 17, we'll resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

SUPPERS WITH SEVEN: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2023

The summer vacation season is drawing to a close and it's time to get back into regular schedules. Are you ready to get back together with Westminster members? What about enjoying meals with other Westminster members? Suppers With Seven is seven persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals. It is a great way to establish or renew relationships with other Westminster members. To sign up, return this form to the church office or fill out the form on the church website. The deadline to sign up is Monday, August 28.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check one: _____ I/We would be willing to host a first gathering.
_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering, but would consider a subsequent one. _____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BACK TO THE BASICS, PART II “WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE ABOUT...”

This fall, we will return to our sermon series, “Back to the Basics.” Last spring, we discussed the basics of Presbyterian theology and compared our beliefs with those of other Christian denominations, such as what Presbyterians mean when we talk about being “saved.”

This time around, we will examine the beliefs and values of our tradition that have multiple interpretations within our tradition. For example, do all Presbyterians believe the same thing about the Bible? What about war? Or tithing? Or miracles, suffering, sabbath, or what makes a good life? What do we do when the Bible itself presents different answers to the same questions? What are the boundaries of our beliefs when it comes to issues that don’t always have clear answers?

The aim of this sermon series is threefold:

- a) to find common ground within our beliefs about challenging topics;
- b) to identify places where we can “agree to disagree” with one another;
- c) to create space for our faith to grow, especially when more than one answer to a question can be a faithful answer.

“Back to the Basics: Part II” will begin this Sunday, August 20.

KICK-OFF BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for Kick-Off Sunday, September 10. The cost is \$12.50 per adult (ages 12+) and \$7.50 per child (ages 6-11). There is no cost for children under the age of 6. Register online (wpc-online.org) for breakfast.

- 9a Breakfast
- 10a Sunday School
- 11:15a Worship

On September 17, we'll resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

SUPPERS WITH SEVEN: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2023

The summer vacation season is drawing to a close and it's time to get back into regular schedules. Are you ready to get back together with Westminster members? What about enjoying meals with other Westminster members? Suppers With Seven is seven persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals. It is a great way to establish or renew relationships with other Westminster members. To sign up, return this form to the church office or fill out the form on the church website. The deadline to sign up is Monday, August 28.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check one: _____ I/We would be willing to host a first gathering.
_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering, but would consider a subsequent one. _____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

BASKETBALL

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register online for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 1. Registration may be accessed on the church's website (wpc-online.org). WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).



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.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

BASKETBALL

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register online for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 1. Registration may be accessed on the church's website (wpc-online.org). WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).



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.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

BASKETBALL

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register online for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 1. Registration may be accessed on the church's website (wpc-online.org). WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).



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.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow