



**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Preparation for **Worship**

“Recognizing the necessity for suffering I have tried to make of it a virtue...I have attempted to see my personal ordeals as an opportunity to transform myself and heal the people involved....I have lived these last few years with the conviction that unearned suffering is redemptive. There are some who still find the cross a stumbling block, and others consider it foolishness, but I am more convinced than ever before that it is the power of God unto social and individual salvation.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 *Prelude and Fugue in F Major* Bach

Introit *11:15a God Is Always There* Sullivan

\* Call to Worship Psalm 42:7-8, 11

**Leader:** Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts, O Lord.  
**People:** **All your waves and your billows have gone over me.**

**Leader:** By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

**People:** **Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God.**

**All:** **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 463 "How Firm a Foundation" FOUNDATION

*(11:15a: Stanza 2, Jr/Sr Choristers Only)*

\* Prayer of Confession

**Holy and gracious God,  
forgive us for putting ourselves at the center of our universe.  
We have focused too much on our own problems,  
and have failed to help our neighbor with her problems.  
We have been indignant when life does not go as we had planned,  
but we spend little time trying to grasp our neighbor’s life,  
refusing to walk in his shoes.  
We have made an idol out of personal comfort,  
instead of imitating Christ’s path to the cross.  
Have mercy on us, and grant us newfound courage:  
to choose compassion over fear,  
to choose love instead of apathy,  
to choose hope instead of despair.  
Help us to trust Christ’s power to redeem,  
for it is in his 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.**

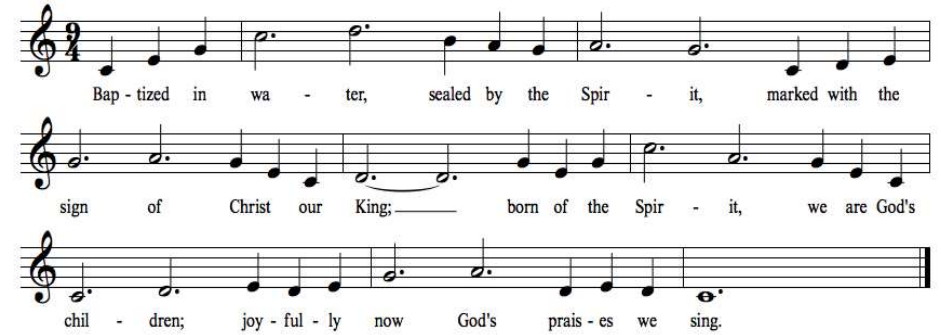
The Sacrament of Baptism *9a*

*Grady Frank Stern*

*11:15a*

*George Frank Revson*

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



*11:15a* Children in K5 – first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson, *Job 38:1-7*

p. 420

Epistle Lesson, *Romans 5:1-5*

p. 917

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Suffering 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 *9a*

*Pavane*

Fauré

Offertory *11:15a*

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Helvey

\* Doxology #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 #37

*Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Benediction Response *11:15a*

WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

Hymn 539: "We Will Go Out with Joy"

*Please join in singing as invited.*

\* Postlude

*Christ for the World We Sing!*

Smith

*\*All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Laura Coker (9a), Clay Smoak (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Anne Howson (9a), Jara Jones (11:15a), *sponsors*

Rosemary Hughes, Todd Monsell, *pianists*

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Junior/Senior Choristers (11:15a)

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

LeAnne White, Russ Williams, Toni Paylor,

Neil Shurley, Keith Stevenson (9a), *greeters*

Meg McKnight, Toni Paylor, Hastings Blumer,

Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell (11:15a), *greeters*

James Knauer (11:15a), *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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Grady Frank Stern*, son of Frank & Amanda Stern.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *George Frank Revson*, son of Will & Megan Revson.

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 9-10:30a next Sunday, September 24. Those who attend the class and join WPC are invited to be introduced during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Leigh Stuckey (lstickey@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

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**

**THEOLOGY READING GROUP**

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, September 18, at 7p in the Charter Room. D'Etta Leach will lead the discussion of *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newell. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

**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).

**CHANCEL CHOIR RETURNS**

The Chancel Choir is an opportunity to sing choral music in the church, with less commitment than the Sanctuary Choir. The Chancel Choir will rehearse on Tuesdays, September 19 and 26 from 7-7:45p in the Choir Room, and sing at the 9a worship service on Sunday, October 1 (World Communion Sunday). No audition or experience is necessary. For more information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

**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.

**INTERFAITH SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY G.O.A.L.**

Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership had an extraordinarily successful first year! Owing to the passionate work of twenty local congregations, we brought over 1500 people to the Nehemiah Action in March, where our state and local leaders were asked to allocate significant funding toward 1) the 988 Suicide Hotline, and 2) affordable housing. As we start our second year, we invite you to join us. We will be holding House Meetings over the next few weeks (9/17 at 9a; 9/26 at 7p) to hear what concerns you have. Watch the Harbinger for additional meeting date(s). For GOAL related questions, contact juliabell@gmail.com.

**CAROLINA HIGH FOOD DRIVE**

This September, consider donating to the Carolina High Food Drive! Carolina High offers critical food assistance to many of their students. They have a significant shortage of the following items: breakfast bars, cereal, peanut butter, canned meat, bags of dried rice, bags of dried beans, mashed potatoes, meal helpers (hamburger helper, etc.), powdered milk, and canned fruit. We will have a collection bin located in the Friendship Court for collecting donations during the month of September.

**WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER**

Tuesday, September 19

- **Circle 7**, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr, 29605) at 6p. Circle Chair: Josie Williams (jgwilliams1803@gmail.com).

All Women: Please join us for our fall kick-off social at 6:30p on Tuesday, September 26, at the home of LeAnne White (9 Rockingham Rd, 29607). This will be a wonderful evening of fellowship, food, and hearing about the upcoming year's planned events. It is a great opportunity to invite a new member or a friend who is interested in WoW. RSVP to Jill Fairey at jill@palmettotrans.com.

**HIKING GROUP**

This season's first hike will be to the Bracken Reserve outside of Brevard, NC, on Thursday, September 21. Following the hike, plan to have lunch at the Square Root restaurant in downtown Brevard. Meet at the trailhead at 10:30a and have lunch around 2p. Contact hike leader, Durden Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com) if you have questions.

**MEN OF WESTMINSTER**

Men of Westminster will have their back-from-summer social at Southernside Brewery (25 Delano Dr, Unit D) on September 26 at 5:30p. Come join the men of the church for fun and fellowship. Please reach out to Clay Smoak (gcsmoak3@gmail.com) with any questions.

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**THE HARBINGER**  
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**September 17-24, 2023**

**Sunday, September 17**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- Creation Stewardship Meeting
- GOAL Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, September 18**

- 7:00p Theology Reading Group
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

**Tuesday, September 19**

- 12:00p Al-Anon
- 6:00 Circle 7
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, September 20**

- 12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
- 2:30 It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 21**

- 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
- 10:30 Hiking Group Outing
- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

**Sunday, September 24**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 5:00p Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

*the*  
**HARBINGER**  
*open minds open hearts*

**VOLUME LXXVII | September 17, 2023 | No. 21**

***From the Pews, Elaine Smith***

Romans 5:1-5

Verse five reads “Hope does not disappoint us because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” I love to visualize God pouring his love into us. I hate to admit that I felt God’s presence more often as a child than I have as an adult. At the ripe old age of 71, I hope to change that. There’s that word hope. Hope is often the feeling of waiting for something to come. But God promises his presence Now and to Come!

We do not need to wait. He is with us in our joys and our sorrows. Hope can encourage us no matter what we face.

Anne Lamott encourages us to put on the good glasses. She writes: “I can walk around with these glasses. These bad glasses of judgment and seeing everything that really is not working for me, everything that is either annoying or infuriating, or I can put on the good glasses and I can see God’s hand everywhere I look.”

Brother Lawrence was a seventeenth century monk in France. After many hardships, he was assigned to kitchen duty in the monastery where he prepared and cooked the food for the day. He cleaned up afterwards. He began to infuse his relationship with God into his menial tasks and to have an ongoing conversation with God as he went about his chores.

Here is an excerpt from Practicing His Presence, a compilation of Brother Lawrence’s letters that was published after his death in 1691. “If you and I are going to enjoy the peace of paradise in this life we must become accustomed to a familiar, humble and very affectionate conversation with the Lord Jesus. You must stop your spirit from wandering from the Lord no matter what the circumstances are.”

Pray for me and I will pray for you that we can put on our good glasses and stick with the Lord in all that we do.

*welcome back!*

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

**Children/Youth Sunday School Class Locations**

**Children** - *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*  
5K/1st (Room 109)  
2nd/3rd (Movie Room)  
4th/5th (Room 112A)

**Youth**

*Middlers (Youth Suite) - Feasting on the Word*

*Senior Highs (300 Hall) - WestConnect*  
register for the following dates: 9/17, 9/24, 10/2, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5 at  
<https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/srhigh-westconnect/>

**Adult Sunday School (September 10–October 15)**

***We Believe What? Exploring the Apostles Creed***

*led by Leigh Stuckey*

*Leigh is Executive Associate Pastor for Faith Formation. She's been a pastor at Westminster for 10 years. She often teaches during the Sunday School year.*

*Room 209*

The Creed has been a standard of orthodoxy for generations, but what is it actually talking about? Are we all Catholic? And what's this about the bodily resurrection? How can we understand God as "Almighty" with all the chaos in our world? And what is the purpose of a creed anyway?! Join Leigh Stuckey for this lecture-style class that will explore the creation and content of the Apostles' Creed. "We Believe What?" will run for six weeks in September and early October.

***Vocabulary and Values in Parenting***

*led by Mary Kathleen Duncan and Lauren Slingerland*

*Mary Kathleen and Lauren have been collaborating since they attended Columbia Seminary together in 2008. Mary Kathleen is the Associate Pastor for Youth and Lauren is the Associate Pastor for Children. They have unique insight into the needs of families and how faith can be a support in all stages of parenting.*

*Room 212*

During this six week period we will explore, through the lens of scripture, how we can cultivate vocabulary and live into our values as we nurture the children in our lives. We hope you will leave this class with a more robust faith vocabulary and some clarifying values both for everyday decision-making and when big questions pop up.

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**CHERUB CHOIR**

It's time for Westminster's young voices, ages 4 and 5, to register for Cherub Choir. Cherub Choir Director, Diana Dailey, will expose young voices to new sounds and experiences through music beginning Wednesday, October 4. Cherubs will meet in Room 207 from 3:30-4p. Parents may also volunteer to help with Cherubs on Wednesdays. For more information, contact Diana Dailey at [diana.dailey@gmail.com](mailto:diana.dailey@gmail.com). To register, visit <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/cherub-choir/>.

**FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC**


Music is an important way to communicate with young children even before they are able to sing along. First Steps in Music is an opportunity at Westminster that provides important time for parents or grandparents to enjoy music with their child/grandchild. Led by Diana Dailey, the First Steps classes teach simple songs, games, and prayers for 2-and 3-year olds and adults to experience together. The next class will be offered from 4:30-5p beginning Sunday, October 1. Register through the church website and if questions, contact Diana Dailey at [diana.dailey@gmail.com](mailto:diana.dailey@gmail.com). To register, visit <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/first-steps-in-music/>.

**LUNCHEON GROUP**

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, September 20, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox ([Imaryanncox@gmail.com](mailto:Imaryanncox@gmail.com)).

**YOUNG ADULTS**

Calling all Young Adults: Join us at Southernside Brewery (25 Delano Dr, Unit D) on Sunday, October 15, following the 11:15a worship service. We will enjoy lunch and fellowship - and kids are welcome! Questions? Contact Elizabeth Timmons at [lelizabethtimmons@gmail.com](mailto:lelizabethtimmons@gmail.com).



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.

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**Our Vision:**  
*Open Minds Open Hearts*

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

**Our Goals:**  
*Connect  
Serve  
Grow*

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**Our Vision:**  
*Open Minds Open Hearts*

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

**Our Goals:**  
*Connect  
Serve  
Grow*