



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but you. Great and wonderful are your works, wondrous are your ways. Thank you for the beauty and variety of your creation. Thank you for the ways that we are free to worship you, to adore you, and to serve you. We stand in awe and in gratitude for the diversity with which you make your presence known, and we are grateful for the revelation that we know in Jesus Christ. Grant us his wisdom and his welcome in all that we say and do. 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 Dakota tune, arr. Farlee
Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

Introit *11:15a* Hymn 395: "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" LIEBSTER JESU

* Call to Worship
Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
People: **It is like the precious oil on the head.**
Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
People: **For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

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

* Prayer of Confession
Good and gracious God,
forgive us for our feeble imaginations.
We speak with confidence about you,
but your love and grace are so much greater
than our minds can grasp.
In our arrogance,
we have turned to money and power and status and control,
instead of turning to you.
We have refused to see your face in the face of our neighbor.
We have been quick to judge, but slow to forgive.
Have mercy on us, O Lord.
Give us the strength that comes from Christ's claim and call,
trusting that his hand is at work where we cannot see it,
and his love is saving even when we do not know it.
In the name of Jesus Christ, 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.

11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination
 Epistle Lesson, *Romans 14:10-12* p. 923
 Gospel Lesson, *Luke 7:1-10* p. 839
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**
 Sermon *"The Faith of Another"*

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* *Balm in Gilead* arr. Burleigh
 Offertory *11:15a* Spiritual, arr. R. Carter
You Must Have that True Religion

* 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

Recognition of New Members *11:15a*

* Hymn 731 *"Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm"* REPTON
(11:15a: Stanzas 1 and 4, All Stanza 2, high voices Stanza 3, low voices)

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response *11:15a* WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY
"We Will Go Out with Joy"

* Postlude *Minuet "Finalé"* Handel

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
 Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*
 Carroll Farmer (9a), Susan Robbins (11:15a), *scripture readers*
 Neil Shurley (11:15a), *sponsor*
 Todd Monsell, *pianist and organist*
 Katie Knauer (9a), *soloist*
 The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)
 Jacob Barker (9a), Rance Bryan (11:15a), *head ushers*
 Betsy Raines, Susan Grier, Jacob Barker,
 Ross Glidewell, Lindsey Donlan (9a), *greeters*
 Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman,
 Nikki Grumbine, Jeff Reynolds, Ginny Reed (11:15a), *greeters*
 Scarlett Gettys, Mary Alice Price (9a), Ellis Bryan, Ella Heegard (11:15a), *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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Margaret McPherson Howell*, to George & Elizabeth Howell on Thursday, September 14, 2023.

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *James Parks McLeod, III*, to Parks & Camille McLeod on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

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 this Sunday, September 24. Those who attend the class and join WPC are invited to be introduced during the 11:15a worship service 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

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 Tuesday, September 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.

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 a House Meeting on Tuesday, September 26 at 7p to hear what concerns you have. This meeting's location is at the home of Anna Hanor (4 Parkins Lake Rd, 29607). An additional meeting is scheduled for Monay, October 9 at 10a at the home of Bill Holt (105 Rockingham Rd, 29607). For GOAL related questions, contact juliabellw@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

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.

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.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a luncheon group for couples and singles, will meet at the Blockhouse (1619 Augusta St) on Sunday, October 8, at 12:45p. RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, October 6. Newcomers are welcome!

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.

THE HARBINGER
Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Greenville, South Carolina 29605
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 24 - October 1, 2023

Sunday, September 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Worship Service
New Member Class
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p New Member Reception
- 2:00 APNC 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 25

- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 26

- 12:00p AI-Anon
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 27

- 2:30 It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 28

- 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday

- 9:00a Worship Service
w/communion
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:45 PVC Tutor Check-In
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service w/communion
- 2:00p APNC 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

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | September 24, 2023 | No. 22

From the Pews, Mike Peters

The passage for today in Luke comes after what Matthew calls the Sermon on the Mount. Although Luke does not refer to it as such. Jesus descends from the high ground to the town of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. A servant of a soldier in the town is sick and about to die. While he is referred to as a Centurian, an officer in command of about 100 men, it is not clear whether he is a Roman or a member of Herod Antipas's forces. In either case, he is a Gentile and someone who is used to being in control and having his orders carried out and desires satisfied. However, he has no power over the fate of his ill servant. He is not in control. In desperation he dispatches a group of Jewish elders to appeal to Jesus to heal his servant. They seem to go willingly, because the Centurian had acted benevolently with the Jews in the past. As Jesus approaches the house, the Centurian through friends begs Jesus not to come into the house, but just "say the word and my servant will be healed." According to rabbinical law, a Jew ceremonially defiles himself by entering a Gentile's home. Jesus is amazed by the Centurian's faith, and He heals the servant.

This story has resonance with many of us I imagine. We are constantly seeking to control every aspect of our lives. If we are in positions of authority whether at home, at work or in the broader society - with children, spouses or colleagues - we expect our wishes to be fulfilled. And in many cases, we have the power to ensure that they are. We may think we don't need God's help. It is only when things appear desperate, a dramatic change in our circumstances for instance, that we realize we are not in control. We need help and the help that can only come from God. When those times come, do we have the faith of the Centurian? Are we confident in turning to God through Christ? Have we recognized that even when we thought we were "in control," Christ was with us? Have we acknowledged that we need God's love, care and help constantly in our lives and not just when we are facing a crisis?

welcome back!

**Worship services are 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: 9/24, 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. 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. To register, visit <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/first-steps-in-music/>.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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>
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LIFE@WPC

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