



**World Communion Sunday**

Preparation for **Worship**

How great is your love, Lord God, and how wide is your compassion. Never let us board up the narrow gate that leads to life with rules or doctrines that we create, but give us your Holy Spirit to push us outside our comfort zones, so that all people will be welcomed with affection, and your church may never exclude anyone made in your image. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. 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.**

Minute for Stewardship Elizabeth Palmer

Prelude *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Walther

\* Call to Worship John 6:27, 35

**Leader:** Do not work for the food that perishes,  
**People:** **but for the food that endures for eternal life.**  
**Leader:** Jesus said to them: I am the bread of life.  
**People:** **Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.**  
**All:** **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 506 "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!" COPELAND

\* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God,**  
**we know that our material lives are full**  
**while our souls are famished.**  
**You have told us that by loving our neighbor,**  
**we will feed our deepest desires.**  
**And yet we have shunned our neighbor,**  
**forgotten our neighbor,**  
**and separated our life from our neighbor's life.**  
**We have built barriers to your love,**  
**and have starved our own spirit.**  
**Forgive us, Holy One.**  
**Seat us at new tables,**  
**so that we will learn once again**  
**how to depend on a stranger for sustenance.**  
**Help us to grow in our hospitality,**  
**so that by welcoming our neighbors into our lives,**  
**the hidden and holy Christ would make himself known.**  
**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, 2 Corinthians 5:16-19 p. 940  
 Gospel Lesson, Luke 5:27-32 p. 837  
**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**  
 Sermon "Who's Coming to Dinner?"

Responding to **God's Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** **And also with you.**  
**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.  
**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**  
**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

The bread will be held and taken together. The cup will be taken individually.

Music during Communion *Sanctus* Schubert

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory 9a *Be Present at Our Table* Lao

Offertory 11:15a Mendelssohn

"O Come, Everyone that Thirsteth" from *Elijah*

\* 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 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" IN BABILONE  
 \* Charge and Benediction  
 \* Postlude *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* arr. Phillips  
 \*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Kathy Jabara (9a), Sheldon Timmerman (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Nancy Smith, *guest organist*

Chancel Choir (9a)

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Bryan Kelley (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), *head ushers*

Emily Cole, Ingrid Erwin, Roger Gower,

Amy Hawkins, Toni Paylor (9a), *greeters*

Zach Freeman, Jeff Reynolds, Susan Robbins,

Zach Weaver, Walker Miller (11:15a), *greeters*

**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.

**OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC**

**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESSING OFFERING**

This Sunday, October 1, we will be taking our annual Peace & Global Witnessing Offering. These gifts enable the PC(USA) to promote economic and social peace all over the world. Twenty-five percent of the offering stays at Westminster for local peacemaking missions. Special envelopes for your contributions are located in the Ritual of Friendship pads.

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND**

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

**COMMUNION BREAD**

The bread we are offering at today's communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sour dough (rice flour, water), rice starch, cornstarch, sugars (rice syrup, caramelized sugar), modified cellulose, psyllium seed husk (vegetable fibre), sunflower oil, pea protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fibre, rice flour, quinoa flour, salt, guar gum, corn flour. May Contain: Mustard, Sesame.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### New Members@WPC

We welcomed the following new members into our fellowship on September 24, 2023:

- Jean Anderson by transfer from St. Matthew Lutheran, Beaverton, OR.
- Joy Cutchin by transfer from Trinity United Methodist, Greenville.
- Julian Dixon by reaffirmation of faith. Julian is married to WPC member, Keri Biles Dixon. They have one daughter, Rollins, (1 mos.).
- Lauren Fiscus by reaffirmation of faith. Lauren and her husband, Gabe, have one daughter, Adelaide (10 mos).
- Steve & Kasey Frank by transfer from First Presbyterian, Greenville. They have three children, Mary Charles (20), Evie (18), and Hayes (14).
- Bob & Jean Hurt by transfer from Fellowship United Methodist Faith Community, Greenville.
- Kevin & Jessica Johnson by reaffirmation of faith. They have one son, Logan (5 mos).

- Renee Johnstone by reaffirmation of faith.
- Grant Lisle by reaffirmation of faith. Grant and his wife, WPC member, Polly Wilson Lisle, have one daughter, MJ (2).
- Marianne Moorer joined by transfer from Swarthmore Presbyterian, Swarthmore, PA.
- Melissa Murphy by reaffirmation of faith. Melissa, and her husband, Ryan, have two sons, Chandler (8) and Patrick (5).
- Will & Dani Norman by reaffirmation of faith. They have two children, Grayson (5) and Mary Stevens (1).
- Michael & Beth Plante by transfer from Mount Pleasant Presbyterian, Mount Pleasant, SC. They have three children, Maggie (15), Jack (14), and Weston (8).

- Andrew & Tara Ross by transfer from Downtown Presbyterian, Greenville. They have three children, Henry (10), and twins, Kate and Maggie (8).
- Mark & Mary Anne Schiller by reaffirmation of faith.
- Patrick Schnelbach by reaffirmation of faith.
- John Sewell by transfer from West Springs Baptist, Pauline, SC. John has one son, Houston (10), and is married to Eric Alley.
- Jay & Kimberly Stephens by reaffirmation of faith. They have two children, Lucy (9) and Beau (6).
- Geoff & Rebecca Traeger by transfer from First United Methodist, McKinney, TX.

- Randy Umstead and Bronwen Forbay by transfer from First Presbyterian, Waco, TX.
- Ben & Lauren Wagner by reaffirmation of faith.
- Debbie West by transfer from First Presbyterian, Lexington, KY.
- Sims & Alison Whitted by transfer from First Presbyterian, Greenville. They have two children, Francie (9) and Thomas (7).
- Harry & Taylor Williamson by reaffirmation of faith. They have twin sons, George and Bennett (1).

### Opportunities @WPC

#### WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The WPC Book Club will meet Tuesday, October 3, at 7p in the church library. Susan Robbins will lead the discussion of *Trust* by Herman Diaz. All are welcome!

#### 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!

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

Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership had an extraordinarily successful first year! As we start our second year, we invite you to join us. We will be holding a House Meeting on Monday, October 9 at 10a at the home of Bill Holt (105 Rockingham Rd, 29607). For GOAL related questions, contact juliabelle@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.

#### THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, October 16 at 7p in the Charter Room. Do Kaiser will lead the discussion of *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All The Wrong Places* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**THE HARBINGER**  
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#### HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will meet again on Thursday, October 12 to Chimney Rock State Park. Hike Leader: Anne Holleman (holl2759@att.net).

#### LIGHTLY SEASONED

The autumn 2023 Lightly Seasoned fellowship gathering has been scheduled for Saturday, October 28, at 6:30p at the home of Jeff & Nancy Giguere (121 Rhett St., #703).

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS October 1 - 8, 2023

##### Sunday, October 1

###### World Communion Sunday

- 9:00a Worship Service w/communion
- Membership Committee Meeting
- 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

##### Monday, October 2

- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

##### Tuesday, October 3

- 12:00p Administrative Committee Meeting
- Al-Anon
- 5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Book Club Meeting

##### Wednesday, October 4

- 10:15a Weekday Chapel
- 2:30p It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 6:00 Basketball Coach's Meeting
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

##### Thursday, October 5

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

##### Sunday, October 8

###### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:45p Connections Group
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

#### **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, Neil Shurley*

It's that time of year again.

That's right, it's stewardship season.

Wait! Don't stop reading!

Let's go beyond the word stewardship, beyond the annual reminder to give back to God, beyond the idea of sharing your monetary gifts to help continue Westminster's work in your life, in your community, and in your world.

Let's go to your heart. And to mine.

Let's go to this beautiful sanctuary. Look at these walls, these pews, these windows. They speak to my heart, to my soul. Maybe this space reaches you the same way it reaches me. This is my spiritual home. The place where I feel connected to a community and to the holy spirit. This is a space that has seen the baptism of my children, the funerals of my friends, the weekly replenishing of my soul. This space has held my laughter and my tears, my disappointment and my joy, my family and my God.

And of course this space is more than just the sanctuary. This space goes beyond the sanctuary's stained glass windows into the welcoming atrium where we have all felt the rejuvenating power of donuts. This space contains the nursery and classrooms and teachers that filled my children's hearts and minds with the knowledge of God's love. This space contains the meeting rooms where I've been honored to help guide the church as a session member, and where adult Sunday school classes sparked uncountable discussions with my wife, and where our parenting group helped us think through tough questions with our children. This space contains the fellowship hall where we have been fed and entertained and informed. And where I got to fulfill a lifelong dream of performing as Elvis. Thank you. Thank you very much.

"Those who are well have no need of a physician," Jesus said. And so I come back each week to this space, this hospital for sinners, to be spiritually healed and brought back to life.

This is my church.

And just as the power of this sanctuary reaches well beyond its physical walls, the power of Westminster reaches beyond my mind and beyond my heart and beyond my soul. Westminster Presbyterian Church truly lives inside me. And maybe it lives inside you, too.

It's stewardship season. The time of year to think about what gifts God has given you and how you might share them with your church. Westminster has shared so much with me, I am grateful to be able to give back with my yearly pledge. It's my way of helping this space continue to reach beyond my own needs by serving the needs of my community and my world and my God.