



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“The most important decision in Christian theology is to decide whether you will speak of God as a person or as a concept, as a name or as an idea. Talk about God as, to use Paul Tillich’s term, ‘ultimate reality,’ and you will get a safe, dead abstraction that you can utilize in whatever salvation project you happen now to be working. Name God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and God will enlist you in God’s move upon the world.”

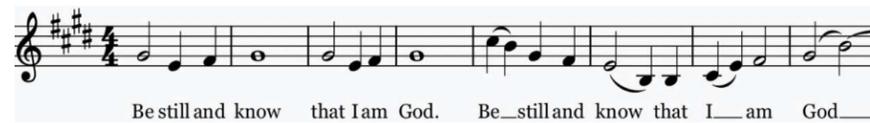
—Will Willimon, *Acting Up in Jesus’ Name*

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 Timmons
Prelude 9a *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Sedio
Prelude 11:15a *Elegaic Dance* Head
Choral Introit "Be Still and Know" Iona Community
Please sing as invited - first in unison, then in canon.



* Call to Worship Psalm 96:1, 2

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song;
People: **sing to the Lord, all the earth.**
Leader: Sing, and give praise to God’s name;
People: **tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 726 "Will You Come and Follow Me" KELVINGROVE

* Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.
We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from our family of faith.
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome one another;
we allow the past to hold us hostage.
In your loving kindness, have mercy on us,
and free us from sin.
Remind us of the promises you make in baptism
so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.
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 11:15a William Finney Waller

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination
Old Testament Lesson, *Psalm 40:1-5* p. 446
New Testament Lesson, *II Corinthians 5:11-20* p. 940
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**
Sermon "Yes, You"

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 *An Instrument of Thy Peace* Walker
Offertory 11:15a *The Servant Song* Schwoebel
* Doxology #606 OLD HUNDREDDTH

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 761 "Called as Partners in Christ’s Service" BEECHER
* Charge and Benediction
* Benediction Response 11:15a Hymn 558 "Amen" ROBERTS
Please join in singing the Benediction Response.
* Postlude *The Trophy* Couperin
**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*
Ben Dorr, *liturgist*
Lindsey Donlan (11:15a), *sponsor*
Mary-Catherine Riner (9a), Sallie White (11:15a), *scripture readers*
Todd Monsell, *organ/piano*
Judy McKenney, *guitar*
The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)
Rosemary Hughes (9a), *flute/soloist*
Petrea Warneck (11:15a), *oboe*
Michael Riner (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), *head ushers*
Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman,
Keith Stevenson, Bill Holt (9a), *greeters*
Jeff Reynolds, Stan Pendergrass, Susan Robbins,
Jacob Barker, Ross Glidewell (11:15a), *greeters*
Sawyer Rentz, Scarlet Gettys (9a),
James Knauer, Reynolds Paradise (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.

There is no children’s or youth Sunday School this Sunday, October 15.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *William Finney Waller*, son of Jack & Alicia Waller.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, October 7, 2023, *Tory Gentry* and *Brian Daniel* were united in marriage at Westminster.

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Edward Beaumonde Dimling*, to Jack & Anna Grace Dimling, on Friday, September 22, 2023.

In Memoriam

Judy Hotchkiss
(7/24/1937 - 10/4/2023)

Judy Vick
(6/19/1944 - 10/7/2023)

"I am the resurrection and the life."
— John 11:25

Choral Introit, "Be Still and Know"
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Opportunities @WPC

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.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

Tuesday, October 17
 • Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Chair: Josie Williams (jgwilliams1803@gmail.com).

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, October 18, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (maryanncox@gmail.com).

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in their fifties and sixties, will meet Saturday, October 28, at 6:30p at the home Jeff & Nancy Giguere (121 Rhett Street #703) in downtown Greenville. Watch emails for more information or check the church's website ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Men of Westminster's October Social is Tuesday, October 24, at 5:30p at the Blockhouse Restaurant (1619 Augusta St.). Come join the men of the church for fun and fellowship. Questions? Contact Tony Threatt (tony.threatt@gmail.com).

Save the date:

Men of Westminster
 Spring Retreat
 April 26-28, 2024
 Montreat Conference Center

TRICK OR TREAT

On Wednesday, October 25, our children will bring joy to residents at the Terra Bella Retirement Home as they go trick-or-treating in their Halloween costumes. Arrive at the church at 5:30p to walk over together to trick or treat with residents. We'll return to the Fellowship Hall for pizza dinner afterwards! There is no cost, but we ask that you please sign up on the church website under the event registration so that we know how much pizza to buy. Contact Associate Pastor Lauren Slingerland (lslingerland@wpc-online.org) for more information.

INSTRUMENTAL/HANDBELL SURVEY

Are you an instrumentalist? Would you like to share your gifts in worship? Are you interested in ringing handbells? If so, please visit the WPC website to complete a survey. This will help us learn the answers to these questions - and more! The survey will remain open through mid-November. Depending upon the responses, opportunities for sharing your gifts will develop in 2024.

2024-2025 PROJECT HOST VOLUNTEER SIGNUPS

The 2024-2025 Project Host volunteer signups will be available in November. Help is still needed for the shifts occurring this December. Please consider signing up for either the December 12 or December 26 openings. Sign up on the Events Registration link on the website.

THE HARBINGER
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 15 - 22, 2023

Sunday, October 15

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
 9:00a Worship Service
 10:00 Sunday School - Adult Class only
(no Children or Youth Sunday School)
 WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 11:15 Worship Service
 12:15p Young Adults Group
 4:30 First Steps Music Class
 6:00 WestConnect - Heather Dorr

Monday, October 16

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

Tuesday, October 17

12:00p Al-Anon
 6:00 Circle 7 Meeting
 7:00 Men of Westminster Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 18

10:15a Weekday Chapel
 12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
 2:15 It's Elementary
 3:30 Cherub Choir
 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
 6:00 WestConnect - Ingrid Erwin
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 19

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

Sunday, October 22

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
 9:00a Worship Service
 Education Committee Meeting
 10:00 Sunday School
 WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
 WestConnect - Leigh Miller
 Third Grade Bible Workshop
 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 11:15 Worship Service
 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
 4:30 First Steps Music Class
 5:00 Middler Youth Group
 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 Youth Dinner
 WestConnect - Heather Dorr
 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
 Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Bill Ballinger

When I was approached to write a Harbinger cover for the "Beyond" Stewardship Campaign, I happily agreed. I mean, it sounded straightforward enough. Why is Westminster important to me and my family and why do we pledge our support to tithe to the church? To THIS church? Well, the more I thought about it, the more difficult it seemed to be to arrive at an exact answer.

My wife and I both grew up in fairly traditional church families. Myself here in Greenville, and Erin in Seneca. Our families attended regularly, we were active in youth groups and choir. Services were traditional and the preaching of the Gospel was very much rooted in the Bible. Some of our closest friends and most cherished experiences were made through church.

As we got older, as I have written for a previous Harbinger, our faith journey was probably similar to most young folks. As we got out from under our parents' roof, and more on our own, our church attendance dwindled. Throughout college and graduate school, we would hit the big services (Christmas, Easter, etc.), but were otherwise not regular attendees. However, after returning home to Greenville, we started to realize we needed to reconnect with a church home, a church family. This was part of the values that were instilled in us by our parents, and while we hadn't done so in a few years, we still knew this was an important component of our lives.

Back to the original question as to why. After visiting a few churches in the area, we began regularly attending Westminster. From the beginning, it was the kindness and friendliness of the ministers, leadership, and the congregation that provided a comfort level that we did not find elsewhere. We found the sanctuary and rest of the building to be beautiful, and we were well aware of the reputation of the Weekday School, where our two sons currently attend school. What became the most attractive aspect of Westminster Presbyterian Church for us though was the phrase, "Open minds open hearts."

Westminster practices what it preaches, pun intended. This is a church of open-mindedness, of inclusion, of love. Since our joining Westminster, there has been natural turnover in pastoral staff, leadership, and new members of the congregation, but one thing has remained the same, and as strong as ever. Westminster remains a place where those who love and place God at the center of their lives can come together to hear His word, in an environment that is comfortable and truly Holy. Westminster's philanthropic work in the community and beyond is truly something of which we can be proud. We love Westminster. Our kids love Westminster; they get so excited just driving by the church property. Our family loves Westminster. There isn't just one thing that brought us here, it was many. The answer to my question of why Westminster might have been easier than I thought. It's just right, and we want to see this church continue to thrive and grow. Erin and I want our children to have the church family we had growing up, the one we have now, so we continue to support Westminster in a manner of which is beyond.