

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 19, 2023 |On Demand on Facebook & YouTube|9a & 11:15a



Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Open unto me – light for my darkness, courage for my fear,
hope for my despair.

Open unto me – peace for my turmoil, joy for my sorrow,
strength for my weakness.

Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion, forgiveness for my sins,
love for my hates.

Open unto me – thy Self for my self. Lord, Lord, open unto me!

Howard Thurman

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

Bob & Gena Runnion

Prelude

Andante

Mendelssohn

Introit 11:15a

Hymn 709, "God, We Honor You"

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

Please remain seated and join in singing once in unison and once in canon, as invited.

* Call to Worship

Psalm 90:1-2, 4, 12

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
People: **Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the world,
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

Leader: For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

People: **So teach us to count our days,
that we may gain a wise heart.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 612

"We Praise You, O God"

KREMSER

* Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, we know that our lives rest in you.

**You are the One from whom all life begins,
and to whom all life returns.**

**Yet we behave as if we are the author of our days,
living like the future is completely in our hands.**

We have been condescending toward our neighbors.

We have forgotten the grace in which we stand.

**We have fooled ourselves into believing that our values
are your values, and your ways are our ways.**

**Forgive us, Holy One,
and direct our gaze toward what matters most.**

**Help us to see our neighbors for who they truly are,
treating them as your beloved children.**

Direct our attention to what matters most:

**living simply, giving generously, and loving faithfully,
all in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. 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.**

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

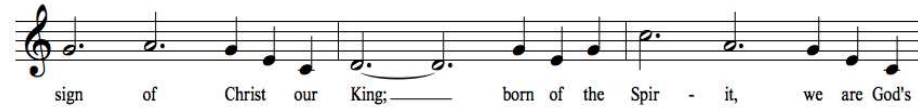
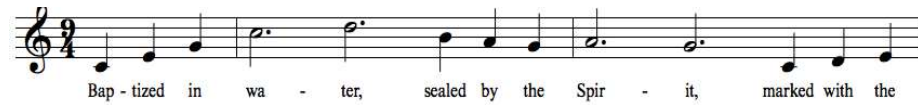
The Sacrament of Baptism 9a

Daniel Townsend Matthews, Jr.

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, *Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12*

p. 472

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 21:5-8*

p. 856

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"The Recruiters"

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) Psalm 89:1, *I Will Sing of Thy Great Mercies* Mendelssohn

Offertory (11:15a) *Psalms 84 and 90, O How Amiable* Vaughan Williams

*Offertory texts for both services may be read by following the link
in the QR code in the announcements.*

* Doxology Hymn 606

OLD HUNDREDETH

**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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* Hymn 643

"Now Thank We All Our God"

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response 11:15a

THANKFUL HEARTS

Hymn 648 "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"

* Postlude

Father, We Thank You

Farlee

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Hastings Blumer (9a), Neil Shurley (11:15a), *sponsors*

Sam White, Jr. (9a), Ingrid Erwin (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Kathi Hurst (9a), *soloist*

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Parks Workman (9a), Clay Smoak (11:15a), *head ushers*

Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell, Jara Jones,

Meg McKnight, Carroll Farmer (9a), *greeters*

Ginny Reed, Nikki Grumbine, Amy Hawkins,

Susan Grier, Russ Williams (11:15a), *greeters*

Miles Threatt (9a), Francie Whitted, Elizabeth Workman (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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate **BIRTH**

The birth of a daughter, *Lucy Carter Anderson*, to Scott & Ally Anderson on Sunday, August 20, 2023.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Daniel Townsend Matthews, Jr*, son of Dan & Sarah Matthews.

We Remember in Prayer

Lauren Roach on the death of her father, Jerry Green, on Sunday, September 3, 2023 in Greenville.

Lynne Willis on the death of her father, George Johnston, III, on Saturday, November 11, 2023 in Greenville.

Tina Wood on the death of her father, Dick Wood, on Sunday, November 12, 2023 in Greer.

Membership@WPC

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, November 19. Those who attend the class are invited to become members and 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 (lstuckey@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Opportunities @WPC

INSTRUMENTAL/HANDBELL SURVEY

Are you an instrumentalist? Would you be interested in ensemble opportunities 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.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, November 20, at 7p in the Charter Room. Ann Hicks will share with us a portion of her Memoir, a portion in which prayer is significant. The discussion will then focus on prayer, faith, good luck. All are welcome.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a luncheon group for couples and singles, will meet at Bonefish Grill (1515 Woodruff Rd) on Sunday, December 3, at 12:45p. RSVP to Ruth Johnson (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, December 1. Newcomers are welcome!

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

Join the Men of Westminster on Tuesday, December 5, at 5:30p for Christmas Cocktails at Southernside Brewing (25 Delano Dr., Unit D). Join the men of the church for fun and fellowship. Questions? Contact Tony Threatt (tony.threatt@gmail.com).

ONE SUNDAY SCHOOL ON 11/26

Join WPC families for Sunday School for all ages in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour on 11/26! Led by Lauren Slingerland, this will be a great way to get to know other folks here at WPC. Note that we will not have WPC Kids and WPCYG Sunday School on the 26th.

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Thursday, November 16, we have received \$1,868,931 in pledges toward our 2024 pledge goal of \$2,688,000. For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Manager, Lynn Bennett, at lbennett@wpc-online.org.

2023 GIVING

At the end of October, we were 83% through the year and had received 67% of our anticipated pledge income. If you are uncertain where you stand with your current pledge, please check with our Financial Manager, Lynn Bennett, in the church office. Thank you for your generosity to Westminster!

RETIREMENT GIVING

Make Qualified Distributions from your IRAs: Westminster members age 70.5 and older can support the church with a gift from their Individual Retirement Account. Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs may offer tax advantages while benefiting WPC's local and global ministries. Contact the church office for more information.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, November 29
Sanctuary Tree Decorating at 6p

Sunday, December 10
Advent Luncheon at 12:30p
(sign ups begin November 20)

February 23-25, 2024
Women's Retreat at Montreat Conference Center

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE HARBINGER
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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.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Locate texts for all
choral music online.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS November 19 - 26, 2023

Sunday, November 19

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Worship Service
New Member Class
Creation Stewardship Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
WestConnect - Leigh Miller
WestConnect - George Howell
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p New Member Reception
- 12:30 Stated Session Meeting
Choir Rehearsal
- 3:00 Young Adults Oyster Roast
- 4:30 First Steps Music Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 WestConnect - Heather Dorr
Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, November 20

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

Tuesday, November 21

- 12:00p Al-Anon

Wednesday, November 22

Weekday School Closed

Thursday, November 23

Weekday School Closed

Church Office Closed

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, November 24

Weekday School Closed

Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 26

Christ the King Sunday

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect - Kathleen Reynolds
WestConnect - Leigh Miller
WestConnect - George Howell
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 4:30p First Steps Music Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
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the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | November 19, 2023 | No. 30

From the Pews, Gayle Blouin

It was certainly BEYOND expectation that a Connecticut Catholic and a South Carolina Methodist could find the perfect church home here in Greenville. Well, we did just that when we first entered the doors of Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1989. The warmth and kindness of the congregation, the impactful sermons, the children's programs and the three beautiful crosses did it for me!

It was BEYOND belief that this same two "volunteered" to be youth advisors for the middle schoolers and then later for the senior highs. I am not sure what we were thinking but we all survived and in fact loved every minute...or almost every minute. We learned to listen more and talk less and to encourage rather than to criticize. Advisors can certainly be advised.

It was BEYOND my anticipation that a surgical mission trip to the Dominican Republic would prove to be as life changing for me as for any of the patients we operated on. I saw the love for Jesus and the joy of life in many of these Christian people who had almost nothing. You do not have to speak the same language to communicate it seems. I went back two more times, once on a second surgical trip and again with the youth.

It was so far BEYOND the odds that my mother and her friend, both living in Conway, SC, would embroider our three crosses on the WPC choir robe stoles. Later, when Mom moved to Greenville, the Westminster folks at Rolling Green Village adopted her and made her an honorary Presbyterian. They gave her an instant community when it had been so hard for her to leave Conway, her home of many years.

As I sit in the pew with Hunter, Caroline, Nora, and Bo, and we listen to Randy sing as part of the choir, I know that Katie, Jesse, Ella, Adeline, and Jo are in a pew at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia. I am BEYOND thankful that we found Westminster Presbyterian Church. It was not easy to find the church for us but it has been a joy to stay right here for 34 years! We give to Westminster because our gifts make a difference in the community and in the world – and also as thanks for all the church has done for us. During this time of giving, let us all consider going BEYOND what we expected to give. After all, this is a place that understands the meaning of going BEYOND.



As he lay swaddled in the manger, Jesus received three gifts from the wise men. To mark the surprise, delight, and joy of that morning two millennia ago, it has been the practice of Christians to exchange gifts with one another on Christmas morning, a tradition that connects us to our past and to generations and communities who have gone ahead of us.

This year, Westminster is proud to sponsor the first ever Pleasant Valley Magi Market. Members of Westminster are asked to help provide gifts for families at the Pleasant Valley Connection. Children from each family will receive three gifts from lists (one small, one medium, one large). We will also need volunteers to help set up the store, provide hospitality as families shop for gifts, and break down after all the shopping has ended. Find out more about the Market here or contact Carrie Marguet (carriemarguet@gmail.com).

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

PROJECT HOST

Please consider signing up to volunteer with other members of Westminster Presbyterian Church at Project Host throughout 2024. There is availability for five church members to prepare, serve, and clean up a meal twice monthly at Project Host. This is a meaningful way to serve the community while getting to know other church members. The shifts are from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm every other Tuesday. Please contact Susan Clark at susanhunterclark@gmail.com with any questions. Signups can be found on the church website at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/>.



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