



Third Sunday after Epiphany

Preparation for **Worship**

God of all good, you are life and salvation to all—faithful and unfaithful, just and unjust, pious and impious, passionate and dispassionate, holy and worldly, wise and simple, healthy and sick, young and old. Make us faithful and wise in worship and service, so that day by day and step by step, we would add fervor to fervor, forgiveness to forgiveness, and love to love. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 *As with Gladness Men of Old* Wold

Choral Introit 11:15a *Hymn 666, Stanza 1 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

\* Call to Worship Psalm 119

Leader: Happy are those whose way is blameless,  
 who walk in the law of the Lord.  
 People: **Happy are those who keep God's decrees,  
 who seek God with their whole heart.**  
 Leader: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
 People: **Your decrees are my heritage forever;  
 they are the joy of my heart.**  
 All: **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" AZMON  
 Stanza 1 - All; Stanza 2 - Low Voices; Stanza 3 - High Voices;  
 Stanza 4 - All in harmony; Stanza 5 - All

\* Prayer of Confession  
**Almighty and merciful God,  
 we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
 We have followed too much the devices  
 and desires of our own hearts.  
 We have offended against your holy laws.  
 We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;  
 and we have done those things  
 which we ought not to have done.  
 Forgive us, O God, and create a new heart within us.  
 Set us free from a past we cannot change,  
 and open to us a future in which we will be changed,  
 so that by your grace,  
 we would grow more and more  
 into the likeness and image of Christ,  
 for it is in his name that 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, *Ephesians 2:4-10* p. 950

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 15:25-30* p. 850

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Problem with Being Good"

Responding to **God's Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
 In sovereign love God created the world good  
 and makes everyone equally in God's image.  
 In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah  
 chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.  
 Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel  
 from the house of bondage.  
 Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
 Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
 like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
 God is faithful still.**

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 *For I Am Persuaded* Schweizer

Offertory 11:15a "See What Love" from *Paulus* Mendelssohn

\* Doxology Hymn 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 644 ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELIN  
 "Give Thanks, O Christian People"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Benediction Response 11:15a PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Hymn 666, Stanza 4 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

\* Postlude *Processional in D* Johnson

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

M. Craig Barnes, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Wesley Rentz (9a), David Golladay (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Chancel Choir (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

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

Parks Workman, Nikki Grumbine, Roger Gower,

Ginny Reed, Jordan Smith (9a), *greeters*

Susan Grier, Jacob Barker, Marian Carpenter,

Lindsey Donlan, Carroll Farmer (11:15a), *greeters*

Salters Kelley, Sawyer Rentz (9a), *acolytes*

Anna Clark Cameron, Ella Huffman (11:15a), *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

NURSERY

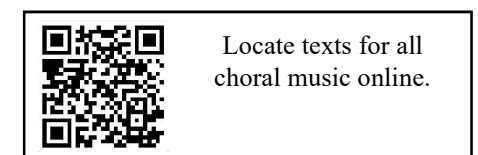
Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. The Family Lounge, located down the stairs from the front office and straight down the hallway on the right, is available for any child caregiver 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 meaning in faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday.

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.



Locate texts for all choral music online.

We Remember in Prayer

Bill Allen on the death of his mother, Mervin Bowling Allen, on Saturday, January 13, 2024, in Rock Hill, SC.

PANCAKE LUNCH  
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4  
 HOSTED BY MEN OF WESTMINSTER

On Sunday, February 4, immediately following the 11:15a service, the Men of Westminster will host a pancake lunch for the congregation in the Fellowship Hall! The menu includes pancakes, bacon, eggs, and fresh fruit. Sign up on the church website at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/#church-life>. Cost is \$10/person, with \$40 max per family. Children 2 and younger are free. Proceeds beyond the cost of the food will go to the Women of Westminster Scholarship Fund. Men of the church - if you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Tyler Fairey at [tylerdfairey@gmail.com](mailto:tylerdfairey@gmail.com) or 803-237-6009.

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 on Sunday, February 4. 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](mailto:lstuckey@wpc-online.org)) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned, a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties, will gather Saturday, January 27, at 6:30p at the home of Susan & Tim Reed (51 Club Forest Ln). Watch your e-mail for more information or check the church's web site ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

WPC YOUNG ADULTS

Join us Sunday, January 28, at Southernside Brewery (25 Delano Dr) for food and fellowship following the 11:15a service and congregational meeting. Kids are welcome! Questions? Email Elizabeth Timmons at LEizabethTimmons@gmail.com.

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 WPC member 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, January 21. Register is available on the home page of Westminster's website: www.wpc-online.org/events registration.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER RETREAT - FEBRUARY 23 - 25, 2024

The Women of Westminster Retreat at Montreat Conference Center is a time to unwind, experience peace and relax. The immediate calm and serenity as you come into Montreat is apparent. It's truly beautiful. At the Westminster Women's Retreat, our hope is that you experience God in a new and powerful way; learn something new about yourself through the messages brought to us by our speaker, Reverend Neeley Lane; meet new friends; grow relationships; and have a getaway weekend for yourself. Please join us for a weekend of devotions, fellowship, music and fun. Sign up now through January 22, 2024 via the WPC homepage. Single rooms are first come, first serve and fill up! Join up with a friend(s) to get a double or quad room! Contact the church office or Jill Fairey, Moderator, (802-920-2071) with any questions.

HIKING GROUP

On Thursday, January 25, we will hike on the Trombatore Trail. This is a 5.3-mile out-and-back trail, near Gerton, NC. This is generally considered a moderately challenging route with 1,253 feet of elevation gain, and takes an average of 2 hours/50 minutes to complete. Hike Leaders are Bob Dellert & Tina Wood. If you plan to participate and/or have questions, contact Bob at 864-320-2340.

Our Vision:

Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

THE HARBINGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2310 Augusta Street  
Greenville, South Carolina 29605  
(864) 232-2424  
www.wpc-online.org

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Church Staff

Ben Dorr  
Pastor & Head of Staff  
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey  
Executive Associate Pastor  
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan  
Associate Pastor  
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland  
Associate Pastor  
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Terri Price  
Parish Associate  
tprice@wpc-online.org

Marlon Hurst  
Director of Music  
mhurst@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell  
Organist  
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch  
Weekday School Director  
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Lynn Bennett  
Financial Manager  
lbennett@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little  
Office Manager  
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley  
Secretary  
wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend  
Director of Nurseries  
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips  
Building Supervisor  
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 21-28, 2024

Sunday, January 21

Third Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00a Worship Service  
Library Committee Meeting
- 10:00 One Adult Sunday School  
WestConnect - George Howell  
Confirmation Class
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
- 4:30 Baptism Class
- 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, January 22

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 23

- 12:00p AI-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

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

Saturday, January 27

- 6:30p Lightly Seasoned Group

Sunday, January 28

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00a Worship Service  
Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School  
WestConnect - George Howell
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Annual Congregational Meeting
- 2:00 New Elder Training (1 of 3)
- 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

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From the Pews, Christa Likes

Luke 15: 25-30: Navigating the Shadows of Comparison with God's Grace

After reading this passage, I immediately asked myself the question, "Have I ever found myself in the background, overshadowed by someone else's spotlight?" The prodigal son's brother knows the feeling. But here's the twist - his journey teaches us profound lessons about identity, grace, and embracing our unique role in God's grand narrative.

In this passage, we see the older brother returning from the field, only to be met with the sounds of celebration for the returning prodigal. His reaction? It was not a happy dance but a reaction of confusion and bitterness. It's a human moment we can all relate to - that sting when it seems like others are getting all the attention.

There are a lot of emotions revealed here. The brother's sense of duty, the comparison that breeds resentment, and the struggle to understand the father's extravagant grace. It's a rollercoaster of feelings that mirrors our own battles with comparison and self-worth.

So, what's the takeaway for us? We cannot let comparison steal our joy. Each of us has a unique role in God's story. Instead of getting lost in the comparison game, embrace your journey, acknowledging that God's grace is sufficient for everyone, including me and you.

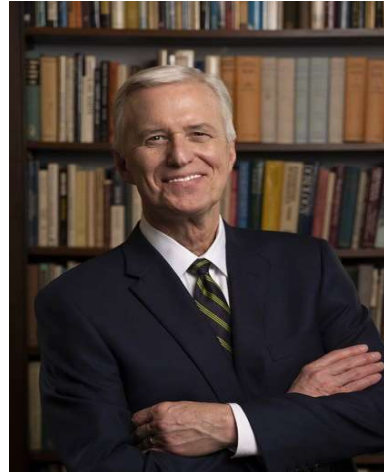




Heritage Lecturer  
January 21, 2024

***M. Craig Barnes***

***"The Changing Nature  
of Church Home"***



The Heritage Lecture Committee is pleased to welcome the Reverend Dr. Craig Barnes to Westminster this Sunday, January 21. He will share in both worship services as well as in a joint adult Sunday School class.

Craig was raised on Long Island, New York. After graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary, he received a Ph.D. in the History of Christianity from The University of Chicago.

He served as the pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI, until 1992 when he became the pastor of The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. In 2002 he became a chaired professor at Pittsburgh Seminary while also serving as the pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church. In 2012 he was elected president of Princeton Theological Seminary and became the president emeritus in January 2023.

He has nine published books including "When God Interrupts," "Pastor as Minor Poet," and most recently "Diary of a Pastor's Soul." He has also served as a contributor and Editor at Large to The Christian Century for many years.

He is married to Dawne Hess Barnes who is an interior designer. They have three fabulous children, four delightful grandchildren, and a frisbee-addicted Bearded Collie.

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**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:**

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 28, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2024 budget, to vote on the 2024 terms of call for the pastoral staff, and to elect 13 elders to the Session. The nominees for elder are Ben Bloodworth, Ben Dillard, Will Edwards, Kathryn Freedman, Mary Gentry, Claire Gilliland, George Howell, Creighton Likes, Carrie Marguet, Trey Morrow, Mandy Pruitt, Elizabeth Timmons, and Sam White, Jr.

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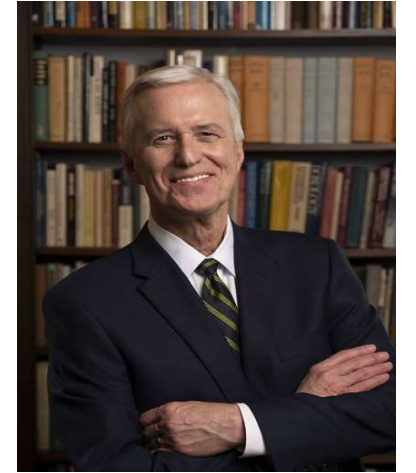
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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
FOR THE KATE BOWLER BOOK LAUNCH**

Help us welcome over 400 folks to our campus and offer hospitality for the Kate Bowler book launch! Bowler, a professor at Duke Divinity School, NYT bestselling author, and podcaster (not to mention the 2023 Heritage Lecturer), will join Emily P. Freeman in Westminster's Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 23rd. Tickets are sold out but Westminster members willing to join the Hospitality Crew are welcome to attend the event. Contact Leigh Stuckey for more details! Volunteers will be asked to arrive by 6p on Tuesday.



**RISE AGAINST HUNGER  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th  
FOLLOWING THE 11:15a WORSHIP SERVICE**

It has long been a tradition of this church to have a service opportunity centered around food insecurity on Youth Sunday. This year we are thrilled to host Rise Against Hunger for a church-wide meal-packing event! Join WPCYG and your church family to pack over 5,000 meals in just over an hour following our second service!

We will have a quick lunch immediately following the service in the 200 Hall and Entrance Pavillion. To sign up for lunch and to volunteer for Rise, visit the registration page of Westminster's website.

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