



**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Preparation for **Worship**

O Lord, hear our prayers not according to the poverty of our asking, but according to the richness of your grace, so that our lives may conform to those desires which accord with your will. When our desires are amiss, may they be overruled by a power greater than ours, and by a mercy more powerful than our sin. Amen.  
*Reinhold Niebuhr*

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 *Prelude and Fugue in C Major* J.S. Bach

Choral Introit *11:15a God Is Never Late* N. Smith  
Junior and Senior Choristers

\* Call to Worship 2 Peter 3:8-9, Psalm 27:13-14

**Leader:** With the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.  
**People:** **The Lord is not slow about his promise, but is patient with us.**

**Leader:** I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.  
**People:** **Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

**All:** **Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" LOBE DEN HERREN

\* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God, your compassion toward our rebellious nature exceeds anything we can imagine. We have created idols out of material goods, always striving for more comfort and control. We have worshiped the false gods of power, prosperity, status, and family. We have been quick to remove the speck from our neighbor's eye, but have failed to notice the log in our own. Forgive us, Holy One. Calm our anxious hearts with the grace and courage of Jesus Christ, so that our faith would be strengthened, our hope would be unharnessed, and our love for our neighbor would grow. 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 8:22-25* p. 919  
Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 40:21-31* p. 582  
**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.  
**People:** **Thanks be to God.**  
Sermon "No End in Sight"

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 *The Quiet Heart* Beck

Offertory *11:15a Have You Not Known* Hobby

\* 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 834 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" PRECIOUS LORD

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude *Andante alla Marcia* Mendelssohn

*\*All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*  
Mary Kathleen Duncan *liturgist*  
Jennifer McDavid (9a), Ashley Flesher (11:15a), *scripture readers*  
Neil Shurley (11:15a), *sponsor*  
Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*  
Lauren Slingerland, *soloist* (9a)  
Junior and Senior Choristers (11:15a)  
Jacob Barker (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *head ushers*  
Hastings Blumer, Russ Williams, Toni Paylor,  
Bill Holt, Keith Stevenson (9a), *greeters*  
Meg McKnight, Ginny Reed, Hastings Blumer,  
Jay Culclasure, Ross Glidewell (11:15a), *greeters*  
Mary Eliza Duncan, Miles Threatt (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.

**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, 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) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

**SERMON SERIES: THE FABRIC OF FAITH**

It is second-nature for Christians to talk about "having faith," "growing up in the faith," or "coming to faith in Jesus Christ." But what do we mean when we use the word, "faith"? Over the upcoming weeks, our sermon series will explore the different ways that Scripture describes what it means to have faith. Topics will include faith as friendship and faith as urgency. Today's sermon will explore faith as patience.

**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.

WPC BOOK CLUB

The WPC Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 6, at 6:30p in the library. Please note the new meeting time. Ruth Johnston will lead the discussion of *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang. This book grapples with questions of diversity, racism, and cultural appropriation, as well as the terrifying alienation of social media. All are welcome!

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a luncheon group for couples and singles, will meet Sunday, February 18, at Stella's Southern Bistro (684 Fairview Rd., Simpsonville) at 12:45p after the 11:15a worship service. Please RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, February 16. Newcomers are always welcome!

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, February 19, at 7p. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion of *American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church*, by Andrew L. Whitehead. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

CHERUB CHOIR  
REGISTRATION OPEN

Visit the WPC website to register your child for Cherub Choir. Cherub Choir is for children grades K4/ K5. Led by music educator Diana Dailey, the Cherub Choir meets weekly on Wednesday (3:30-4p) in Room 210 - beginning February 7 and continuing through mid-April.

HIKING GROUP

On Friday, February 9, we will hike to Opossum Creek Falls. This is a well maintained 4.6 mile out and back trail ending with a 50-foot waterfall that is a moderately difficult hike with an 800 foot elevation over the entire route. Hike Leader: Durden Collins. If you plan to hike or have questions, contact Durden at durden.collins@gmail.com or 864-414-6142.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Worship opportunities to begin this holy season include:

- 8-9a & 12-1p Prayer and imposition of ashes in Columbarium
- 6p Worship service in the Sanctuary

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS JUNE 10-14

FOR RISING KINDERGARTNERS THROUGH RISING 5TH GRADERS  
REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

Mark your calendars and join us for Westminster Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School 2024 - The Great Adventure. Children will explore Psalm 121:1 "I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? We will learn that God is always with us and will guide our path. We will learn to never give up even when the adventure seems so great! Finally, we will look to help others on their great adventure.

Register online at the link on our website or you can go directly to <https://vbspro.events/p/events/wpcvbs2024>. If you have questions or would like to know more, please write VBS on your connection card.

VBS needs volunteers! Please join us for a fun and fulfilling week with many volunteer opportunities! Older youth members who would like to be a classroom assistant and adult volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact [vbs@wpc-online.org](mailto:vbs@wpc-online.org).

THE HARBINGER

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 4-11, 2024

Sunday, February 4

- Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**
- 9:00a Worship Service  
New Member Class
  - 10:00 Sunday School  
Camp Fellowship Parent Interest Meeting
  - 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
  - 11:15 Worship Service
  - 12:15p Churchwide Pancake Lunch
  - 2:00 New Elder Training (2 of 3)
  - 4:00 First Steps in Music - Class 1
  - 4:30 First Steps in Music - Class 2
  - 5:15 Combined Youth Choir Rehearsal
  - 6:00 Youth Dinner
  - 6:30 Combined Youth Group

Monday, February 5

- 5:30p WestConnect (Sallie White)
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 6

- 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting  
Administrative Committee Meeting
- 6:30 Westminster Book Club

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

- 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
- 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, February 9

- 8:00a Hiking Group

Sunday, February 11

- Youth Sunday**  
**Souper Bowl of Caring**
- Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**
- 9:00a Worship Service  
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
  - 10:00 Sunday School
  - 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
  - 11:15 Worship Service
  - 12:15p Rise Against Hunger
  - 4:00 First Steps in Music - Class 1
  - 4:30 First Steps in Music - Class 2

the  
**HARBINGER**  
*open minds open hearts*

VOLUME LXXVI | February 4, 2024 | No. 42

*From the Pews, Elaine Smith*

Isaiah 40:21-31

Isaiah is one of the most loved books of the Old Testament. It is sometimes referred to as the 'fifth gospel'. The message to the Israelites in Chapter 40 is one of comfort, hope and God's glory. It is a reminder that God is sovereign over all nations and people. God knew the Israelites as he knows each of us. He recreates and strengthens us even when we are not aware of his presence. Like the Israelites, we can be prone to weariness and despair with the state of our world. We may wonder where God is. Waiting on the Lord is a major theme in the Bible.

Verse 31 states, "But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." It is so hard to wait for God! What does it mean? It means not giving up even though we are confused about the evil and suffering in the world. Waiting isn't a passive activity. It can be filled with positive expectation and anticipation. We can wait by seeking God in Bible study and prayer. We can wait by being obedient, helping those who need us. Finally, we can wait by realizing that God is at work within us and the world.

*"Waiting and Longing"*

*God of the Seasons,  
God of the years,  
God of the eons,  
Alpha and Omega,  
before and after us.*

*You promise and we wait:  
we wait with eager longing,  
we wait amid doubt and anxiety,  
we wait with patience thin  
and then doubt  
and then we take life into our own hands.*

*We wait because you are the one and the only one.  
We wait for your peace and your mercy,  
for your justice and your good rule.*

*Give us your spirit that we may wait  
obediently and with discernment,  
caringly and without passivity,  
trustingly and without cynicism (1-19)*

taken from *Prayers for Privileged People*  
by Walter Brueggemann



Wondering if weather will postpone an event? Need a reminder to sign up for a church-wide meal? Text "wpcgreenville" to (864)232-2424 to get up-to-date information about our life together! We promise we won't bombard you. Text today or follow the QR code.

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
**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 Pavilion. To sign up for lunch and to volunteer for Rise, visit the registration page of Westminster's website.

**HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS**

February is designated as Heart Month, focusing on heart health and cardiovascular disease prevention. What better way to celebrate this initiative than participating in a hands-only CPR class! According to the American Heart Association, about 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

On Wednesday, February 21, at 4p, a 45-minute class will be held at Westminster in Room 209 and is open to 15 participants (teenagers and adults only). The class will teach basic hands-only CPR (compressions), NOT certification for full CPR training. We also hope to have an AED demonstration and practice as well. Childcare will be available during the class. Contact Emily Cole (864-612-6185) with questions. To sign up for the class, go to <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/cpr-class/>.

**Our Vision:**

***Open Minds Open Hearts***

**Our Pillars:**

*Hospitality*

*Generosity*

*Justice*

*Imagination*

*Joy*

**Our Goals:**

*Connect*

*Serve*

*Grow*

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**ADULT EDUCATION ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

We at Westminster believe that education is essential for discipleship and hope that what you learn in this place will transform your living beyond our doors. This quarter will run each Sunday through February 25. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

**1. The Last Days of Christ  
Led by Leigh Stuckey****Room 209**

"The Christmas Feast is already a fading memory, / And already the mind begins to be vaguely aware / Of Lent and Good Friday which cannot, after all, now / Be very far off." (from For the Time Being , Auden). As we prepare to move into Lent, with the liturgical scent of pine a fading memory, we turn our eyes towards the final, climactic stories of Jesus' earthly life. Join us for this five week lecture-style series during which we will explore Peter's confession, the triumphal entry, John's account of the Last Supper, the Synoptic Last Supper, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

**2. The Confessions by St. Augustine of Hippo  
Taught by John MacCarthy****Room 211**

St. Augustine (354-430 CE) is viewed as one of the most important of the early "Church Fathers." He is often credited with providing the initial philosophical basis for Christian theology, and his writings have had a major impact on the development of Western philosophy, Western Christianity, and developmental psychology. He is also considered one of the theological fathers of the Protestant Reformation and is credited with our understanding of doctrines of grace, predestination, and original sin. St. Augustine's Confessions is generally considered one of his most important (and accessible) works. It is the story of his journey from "sinful youth" to his adult conversion to Christianity (thanks to his mother's constant "help"). I personally find it to be one of the most hilariously funny works by a serious philosopher/theologian that I have had the pleasure to read (and I hope that by the end of the class, you will share this opinion as well). The course will begin with a brief overview of the life and significance of St. Augustine and some of the relevant heresies of the time and then proceed to an in-depth study of Confessions.

**3. The Flock Reads the Psalms  
Led by Members of The Flock****Room 212**

Join the Flock (an age-and-stage group at Westminster with folks ranging from mid-40s through late 50s) for an in-depth study of a book of the Bible. Each week the group will read and explore a text from the Psalms. This discussion-style class is facilitated by members of the Flock.

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**Mark your calendars:****Celtic Spirituality and Our Scottish Roots****March 12-23, 2025: A Pilgrimage to Scotland**

Join Westminster members and families on our inaugural international pilgrimage! The 12-day journey provides a deep dive into the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church as well as its contemporary expression in the Church of Scotland. Pilgrims will also connect with the contemporary Iona community in Glasgow and on Iona (where aspiring golfers are welcome to choose a tee time). Highlights include Edinburgh and Glasgow, the Isle of Iona with its evocative abbey, and key sites related to the life and ministry of John Knox in St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Travelers of all ages are welcome. The trip is designed to partially overlap with Greenville County Schools Spring Break. Contact Leigh Stuckey for more information. Final pricing and details to reserve your spot will be released in the coming months.

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**Mark your calendars:****Celtic Spirituality and Our Scottish Roots****March 12-23, 2025: A Pilgrimage to Scotland**

Join Westminster members and families on our inaugural international pilgrimage! The 12-day journey provides a deep dive into the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church as well as its contemporary expression in the Church of Scotland. Pilgrims will also connect with the contemporary Iona community in Glasgow and on Iona (where aspiring golfers are welcome to choose a tee time). Highlights include Edinburgh and Glasgow, the Isle of Iona with its evocative abbey, and key sites related to the life and ministry of John Knox in St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Travelers of all ages are welcome. The trip is designed to partially overlap with Greenville County Schools Spring Break. Contact Leigh Stuckey for more information. Final pricing and details to reserve your spot will be released in the coming months.