



First Sunday in Lent

Preparation for **Worship**

“For those to whom God wills to be all in all, God strips everything else.”
Karl Barth

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 "Adagio" from *Clarinet Concerto*, K. 622 Mozart

Choral Introit 11:15a WOZO NOMTHWALO WAKHO
Hymn 851 "Come, Bring Your Burdens to God"

* Call to Worship Psalm 25:1-2, 4-5

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
People: **O my God, in you I trust.**
Leader: Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
People: **Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" EIN' FESTE BURG

* Prayer of Confession
**Holy God, far too often,
we measure our lives by what we possess and earn and own.
Yet you call us to follow your Son, Jesus Christ,
who asks us not to accumulate, but to let go.
Forgive us, Lord, for we have been afraid:
afraid to share our wealth for the sake of the gospel,
afraid to let go of grudges for the sake of new beginnings,
afraid to take risks for the sake of your love.
Remind us once again of who and whose we are.
Give us courage to travel lightly, to give generously,
to love indiscriminately, and to follow Christ faithfully,
for it is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

* Kyrie, Hymn 551 "Lord, Have Mercy" LAND OF REST

* 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
Old Testament Lesson, *Genesis 12:1-4* p. 8
Gospel Lesson, *Mark 1:16-20* p. 812

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "They Couldn't Take Them Too"

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
Prayer after Communion

Offering
Offertory 9a Fauré/arr. Petker
Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love

Offertory 11:15a *Jesus Calls Us* Patterson

* 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.**

* Hymn 684 "Faith Begins by Letting Go" LUX PRIMA
9a: Stanza 1, Cantor; Stanzas 2-3, **All**
11:15a: Stanza 1, Sanctuary Choir; Stanzas 2-3, **All**
* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude *Toccata in D Minor* Seeger
**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*
Paul Grier (9a), Kathryn Freedman (11:15a), *scripture readers*
Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*
Anastasia Christofakis (11:15a), *clarinet*
Tom Vanderbloemen, *trumpet*
Diana Dailey (9a), Kathryn Knauer (11:15a), *soloists*
Michael Riner (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), *head ushers*
Emily Cole, Ingrid Erwin, Bill Holt, Neil Shurley, Anne Howson (9a), *greeters*
Walker Miller, Stan Pendergrass, Bill Holt, Jordan Smith, Susan Robbins (11:15a), *greeters*

WORSHIP NOTES

NURSERY

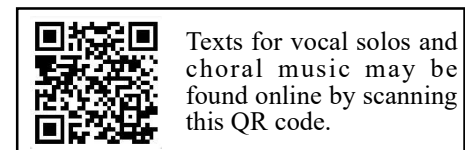
Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices. The 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.



Texts for vocal solos and choral music may be found online by scanning this QR code.

During the season of Lent, we will sing a “Kyrie” response between the Prayer of Confession and the Assurance of Pardon. First used liturgically in the 5th c., the Kyrie (Greek: *Kyrie eleison* – *Lord, have mercy*) was employed by both Martin Luther and John Calvin as an act of contrition. ² Our hymnal, *Glory to God*, contains six settings of the Kyrie. We will sing the setting that employs the familiar American folk melody LAND OF REST.

1. Ron Jeffers. *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire. Volume I: Sacred Latin Texts.* (Corvallis, Oregon: earthsongs.1988), 48.
2. Peter C. Bower, ed. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship.* (Louisville: Geneva Press. 2003), 23.

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 letting go.

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.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Chuck McFadden on the death of his father, Charles B. McFadden, on February 5, 2024, in Columbia.

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.

HANDS-ONLY CPR CLASS

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/>.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, February 20
 • Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Chair: Josie Williams (jgwilliams1803@gmail.com).

HIKING GROUP

On Thursday, February 22, we will hike at Table Rock State Park. We will meet at the Nature Center at the park at 11a. If you plan to hike or have questions, contact hike leader, Ralph Bouton, at ralphbouton@yahoo.com or 864-420-4656.

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.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, February 21, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

**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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Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
 Generosity
 Justice
 Imagination
 Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
 Serve
 Grow*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
 February 11-18, 2024**

Sunday, February 18
First Sunday in Lent
 9:00a Worship Service w/communion
 10:00 Sunday School
 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 11:15 Worship Service w/communion
 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
 12:45 Connections Group
 2:00 New Elder Training
 4:00 First Steps in Music - Class 1
 4:30 First Steps in Music - Class 2
 6:00 WestConnect (Heather Dorr)

Monday, February 19
Weekday School Closed
 5:30p WestConnect (Sallie White)
 7:00 WestConnect (Mollie Pile)
 Theology Reading Group
 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 20
 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
 6:00 Circle 7 Meeting
 7:00 Men of Westminster Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 21
 10:15a Weekday Chapel
 12:30p Luncheon Group Meeting
 2:15 It's Elementary
 3:30 Cherub Choir
 4:00 Hand Only CPR Class
 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
 6:30 WestConnect (Ingrid Erwin)
 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 22
 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
 11:00 Hiking Group
 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Fri, February 22-Sat, February 23
Women of Westminster Retreat

Sunday, February 25
Second Sunday in Lent
Women of Westminster Retreat
 9:00a Worship Service
 10:00 Sunday School
 Confirmation Class
 Sunday School Open House
 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 11:15 Worship Service
 4:00p First Steps in Music - Class 1
 4:30 First Steps in Music - Class 2
 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

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Gaye Sprague

And immediately they left their nets and followed him.
Mark 1:18 (NRSV)

Can't you picture it? One minute Peter and Andrew are in their boat fishing. Then, immediately after Jesus says "Follow me," the little boat is empty except for the nets. It's rocking gently as the short waves on the Sea of Galilee lap the shore. I almost picture the cloud of dust that the cartoon Roadrunner leaves behind when he makes a quick exit to get away from Coyote.

And then there is the Zebedee family fishing business. When Jesus immediately called James and John, they left their father in the boat with the hired men and followed Jesus. This calling I can't picture as clearly. Did Zebedee call out, "Wait, what's going on here? There are more nets to mend!" Did he just stand there in shock with his mouth open? Or did he also feel a call? A different call to stay behind and mend the nets and keep fishing so that the rest of the family (and the hired men) were cared for?

What amazing faith and courage the disciples showed when, according to Luke, they "left everything" to follow Jesus. While there are modern day spiritual leaders who immediately leave everything to follow Jesus, most that I know have dedicated a life of education and often sacrifice to listening to and following God's call. Our pastors, missionaries, those who work in human service non-profits that are not able to pay market rate salaries, our church staff, and even unpaid volunteers have heard a call and followed. We admire, appreciate, and pray for them.

But let's don't forget the Zebedees in the lives of these faithful souls. Spouses, children, parents, friends, or even former business partners who have to move, change long-term plans, give moral support, keep a flexible schedule, or myriad other actions required of the ones directly connected to those called. When we think about the courageous ones answering a call let's admire, appreciate, and pray for the Zebedees too. They are having to mend a few extra nets.