



Second Sunday in Lent

Preparation for **Worship**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

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 A minor* Bach

Introit 11:15a *Wozò Nómthwalo Wakho*
 Hymn 851 "Come, Bring Your Burdens to God"
 1st time, *Quartet*; 2nd & 3rd times, *All*

* Call to Worship *Psalms 8:1, 3-5*
Leader: O Lord, our Sovereign,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!
People: **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;**
Leader: What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?
People: **Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" *FAITHFULNESS*

* Prayer of Confession
Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have sinned.
We have lived for ourselves and apart from you, separating our life from our neighbor's life.
We have refused to bear the burdens of others, ignoring the isolation and pain of those who live nearby.
We have spent time and energy on the fleeting and trivial, passing by the hungry, the poor, and the forgotten.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Free us from all selfishness, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of Christ's holy name. 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism 9a *Margaret McPherson Howell*
 11:15a *Jackson Robert Paylor*
 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, *Proverbs 17:17, 18:24* p. 523

Gospel Lesson, *John 15:12-17* p. 878

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *"I Have Called You Friends"*

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; and 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 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Larkin

Offertory 11:15a *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Brown

* 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 703 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" *ST CATHERINE*
 * Charge and Benediction
 * Postlude *Thy Strong Word* *Manz*
**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Ross Glidewell (9a), John Paylor (11:15a), *sponsors*

Jason Farmer (9a), Bob Dellert (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Chancel Choir (9a)

Kathi Hurst, *soloist* (11:15a)

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Bryan Kelley (9a), Parks Workman (11:15a), *head ushers*

Jara Jones, Meg McKnight, Laura Cox, Hastings Blumer,

Jay Culclasure (9a), *greeters*

Marian Carpenter, LeAnne White, Russ Williams,

Toni Paylor, Neil Shurley (11:15a), *greeters*

Ellis Bryan, Ella Heegard (9a), *acolytes*

Lily McTyre, Francie Whitted (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.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Margaret McPherson Howell*, daughter of George & Liz Howell.

BAPTISM

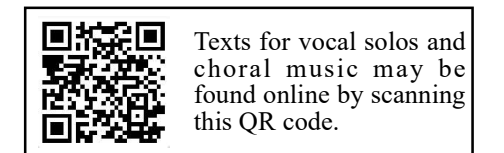
This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Jackson Robert Paylor*, son of Andrew & Mary Paylor.

LENTEN RESPONSE

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 failure and faith as urgency. Today’s sermon will explore faith as friendship.

PARKING ON W. AUGUSTA PLACE:

When parking on Sunday mornings, please observe the “No Parking” signs on W. Augusta Place near the intersection with Augusta St. Emergency vehicles need to have a clear road from the signs to the intersection.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER RETREAT
MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER
APRIL 26-28, 2024

All men of Westminister are invited to the second annual men's retreat in Montreat, NC. Presbyterian College's Chaplain and Dean of Spiritual Life, The Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$255. Sign up online at wpc-online.org. For more information, contact Tony Threatt (tony.threatt@gmail.com).

MEN OF WESTMINSTER FEBRUARY
SOCIAL AT FIREFORGE

- Tuesday, February 27, at 5:30p at Fireforge (311 E Washington St, 29601). Enjoy fellowship and a pint with the fellow men of Westminister.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
CELTIC SPIRITUALITY
AND OUR SCOTTISH ROOTS
MARCH 12-23, 2025:
A PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND

Join Westminister 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.

Our Vision:
Open Minds Open Hearts

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
February 25-March 3, 2024

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

Monday, February 26

- 3:30p PW Life Honorary Award Committee Meeting
- 5:30 WestConnect (Sallie White)
- 7:00 WestConnect (Mollie Pile)
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, February 27

- 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, February 28

- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 6:30 WestConnect (Ingrid Erwin)
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 29

- 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
- 6:30p WestConnect (Joey Fievet)
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, March 2

- 9:00a Session Retreat

Sunday, March 3

Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:00a Worship Service Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School WestConnect (George Howell) WestConnect (Leigh Miller)
- 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, Scott & Susan Clark

On grocery shopping, Inigo Montoya and risk –

It is fair to say that most of us have lots of acquaintances. These are the people who we work with, who live next door, the ones we share third period science class with, bump into enough times that we know to ask for their family or their opinion on the weather. Further, it is more than fair to say that the world is filled with people for whom we do not have even that level of acquaintance.

John Koenig wrote a book in 2012 titled *The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows*. The book is a dictionary of made-up words for emotions that we all feel but don't have “official” words to express. One such word – sonder – is defined as the profound feeling of realizing that everyone has a life as complex as your own. A life which they are constantly living despite your lack of awareness of it. Try it next time you are at the grocery store. Turns out, that person considering which bacon bits to buy is the lead character in his own movie.

But being acquainted with someone or simply recognizing that someone fully exists is dramatically different than being a friend to someone. Being a friend means making a choice. It means choosing commitment, priority and vulnerability. It's not enough to think friendly thoughts about someone or to share some of the same interests, but it requires you to stand willing to invest yourself in the well-being of another and when called, to act on their behalf. In that way, being a friend involves risk. Sometimes, it's not easy to take that risk and to be a friend, but if you are doing it right, you do it anyway. Maybe the best way to say it is the way Jesus said it – you love a friend.

Mandy Patinkin was on *Weekend Edition* recently. He was describing what it means to be a friend and to have a friend and the value of the time friends spend together in loving relationships. He talked about how time passes – some that you can remember, and some that you cannot remember. But through it, you know that you were there together and that you are able to bear witness to each other's life. This is a remarkable way to describe the time you spend with a friend – bearing witness to their existence. It is a humbling way to think about the responsibility involved in friendship.

Chances are we will not get to be a friend and bear witness to the lives of all those people who fill this world living all those complex, fully formed yet invisible lives. It would take countless lifetimes to even try. Maybe we could start with those nearest around us – the ones at work, in the neighborhood, in science class, opining on the weather. Take a risk on them.