



Third Sunday in Lent

Preparation for **Worship**

“Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without repentance; it is baptism without the discipline of a community; it is the Lord’s Supper without confession of sin; it is absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without the living, incarnate Jesus Christ [...] those who want to use this grace to excuse themselves from discipleship are deceiving themselves.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship*

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 *Rhosymedre* Vaughan Williams

Introit 11:15a WOZO NOMTHWALO WAKHO

Hymn 851 "Come, Bring Your Burdens to God"
 1st time, *Quartet*; 2nd & 3rd times, *All*

* Call to Worship

Leader: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**People: Dying you destroyed our death,
 rising you restored our life.**
 Leader: Meet us in these Lenten days
 as we bear witness to your story.
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 824 "There Is a Place of Quiet Rest" McAFEE

* Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy,
 you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
 We confess that we have strayed from you
 and turned aside from your path.
 We are misled by pride,
 for we see ourselves righteous when we miss the mark,
 and great when we are small.
 We stand idly by when you ask us to follow,
 and we busy ourselves when you ask us to be still.
 We have failed in love, neglected justice,
 and ignored your truth.
 Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.
 Set out feet on your path, and help us trust in your promises.
 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 Sloan Elizabeth Maxwell

Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" Bunessan

Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Psalms 146* p. 507

Second Scripture Lesson, *Exodus 14:5-15* p. 53

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

Sermon "When the Helicopter Comes"

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 *Go Down, Moses* Spiritual, Arr. Burleigh

Offertory 11:15a *Psalms 146: I’ll Praise My Maker* arr. Hopson

* 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 741 "Guide My Feet" GUIDE MY FEET

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Tocatta* Eberlin

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Ginny Reed (9a), *sponsor*

John Ashmore (9a), Marian Carpenter (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Margaret Lowry-Brock (9a), *soloist*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen, Parks Workman,

Betsy Raines, Bill Holt (9a), *greeters*

Jeff Reynolds, Zach Freeman, Susan Grier,

Jacob Barker, Marian Carpenter (11:15a), *greeters*

Miles Threatt (9a), *acolyte*

Anna Clark Cameron, Mary Eliza Duncan (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.

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

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship Sloan Elizabeth Maxwell, daughter of Joey & Susan Maxwell.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, Barnes Lowndes Buchanan, to Chip & Emily Buchanan on Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

We Remember in Prayer

Kristy Young on the death of her father, Thomas Edward Nix, on Thursday, February 22, 2024, in Greenville.

Susan Reed on the death of her mother, Lillian Thomas, on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in Hampton, SC.

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.¹, 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 1: 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.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

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 paradox.

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.

WPC BOOK CLUB

The WPC Book Club will meet Tuesday, March 5, at 6:30p in the library. Susan Ferrell will lead the discussion of The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah. This powerful American epic, set during the Great Depression, deals with themes of hope, love, and herosim. All are welcome!

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, March 18, at 7p. Lucy Stewart will lead the discussion of How the Bible Actually Works: In Which I Explain How an Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers - and Why That Is Good News, by Peter Enns. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

HIKING GROUP

On Thursday, March 14, we will hike Rainbow Falls Trail in Gorges State Park - just east of Sapphire, NC. This is approximately a four mile out and back trip with an elevation gain of 700 ft. Hike Leader: Charles Little. If you plan to hike or have questions, contact Charles at charleslit@gmail.com or 864-423-3591.

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

All men of Westminster 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).

SUPPER WITH SEVEN APRIL - JUNE 2024

Spring is in the air! And you know what that means - Easter is approaching, buds are fixin' to bloom, birds are chirping, time to shake off the winter blues, and there is nothing better to usher in spring than making plans to participate in Westminster's Suppers With Seven! Suppers with Seven is a WPC tradition bringing together seven or so people - couples, singles, younger, older - for a series of two or three meals over the course of three months. If you are looking to make deeper connections, renew friendships with other Westminster members, or just want to show off your culinary skills, Suppers with Seven is for you! The deadline to sign up is Monday, March 25.

Name(s): _____ (Include both names if you are signing up as a couple.)

Phone: _____ (This phone number will be shared with members of your group.)

Email: _____ (This email address will be shared with members of your group.)

Preferred Method of Contact: Email Phone call Text

Check one:

- _____ I/We can host and lead the first gathering of Suppers with Seven.
_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering but would consider a subsequent one.
_____ I/We cannot host but want to be part of a group.

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THE HARBINGER Westminster Presbyterian Church 2310 Augusta Street Greenville, South Carolina 29605 (864) 232-2424 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 March 3-10, 2024

Sunday, March 3

Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:00a Worship Service Education Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School WestConnect (George Howell) WestConnect (Kathleen Reynolds) 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

Monday, March 4

- 5:30p WestConnect (Sallie White)
7:00 WestConnect (Mollie Pile)
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 6

- 10:15a Weekday Chapel
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, March 7

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

Sunday, March 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 9:00a Worship Service Witness & Service Committee Meeting
10:00 Sunday School WestConnect (George Howell) WestConnect (Kathleen Reynolds) WestConnect (Leigh Miller) 1st & 2nd Grade Worship Workshop Confirmation Class #4
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
12:00p Stated Session Meeting
4:00 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, Derek Pitman

The scripture this week is Psalm 146. Trying to be "hip" and "tech-savvy," I asked Chat-GPT to write a devotional for Psalm 146 to get ideas. Rest assured, this is not that devotional, because 1). That would be plagiarism, and 2). That devotional was terrible. Sure, it was technically accurate; it referenced multiple sources and examined the themes and ideas of the Psalm, but it was some of the most sterile writing I've encountered in some time. I even asked the engine to include a joke to add levity to the piece, and it quoted, "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past." Hilarious.

I do think this exercise serves as a decent metaphor for the Psalm, because the central themes of the text include the incredible scope of God's grace, vision, and love, and, more centrally, a warning not to put one's trust in human rulers or powers. By extension, we shouldn't put our trust in man (or man-made machines) to nurture our relationship to the Almighty.

No one loves hearing this, but it's an election year. The camps have already circled their wagons and cranked up their political machines to influence voters. It may seem trite to mention the U.S. presidential election when discussing the Psalm with the heading "Put Not Your Trust in Princes," but juxtaposing the fallibility of worldly leaders against the greatness of God while finding solace in the assurances of God's power and mercy will never be cliché.

God has been, is, and will always be with us. Experiencing His presence is a wholly human and personal experience, and we can rest in the assurance that "The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!"

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 March 24. You are welcome to join any class at any point!

**1. Easter Appearances in the Gospels (meeting March 10, 17, and 24)
A Lecture-Style Class led by Leigh Stuckey**

Room 209

Each Gospel narrates a slightly different scene to highlight the good news of new creation at Easter. In this lecture-style class, we will consider the road to Emmaus, the meal on the beach, and the great commission.

What do the resurrection appearances tell us about who Jesus is? How can they inspire faith today? **Please note that this class will not meet this Sunday, March 3.**

**2. The Confessions by St. Augustine of Hippo (meeting March 10, 17, and 24)
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. Faith at the Border
Facilitated by WPC Members**

Room 212

In February 2023, a delegation of members from Westminster traveled to the US/Mexico border. Over the course of four weeks, members of the delegation will share their experiences from the trip. The Group spent eight days with our PCUSA partners, Frontera de Cristo, in Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. Discussion will include a reflection on the history of the border and reflections on life on the border from both sides of the "wall."

March 3: History of the Border

March 10: Frontera de Cristo's Work and Partners at the Border

March 17: Frontera de Cristo's Work and Partners at the Border
(Mandy, Jerry, Keith)

March 24: The Immigrant Experiences in Greenville and SC

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Our Vision:
*Open Minds Open
Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
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