



Fourth Sunday of Easter
Preparation for **Worship**

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* Monsell
Introit, Hymn 243 *11:15a "Be Not Afraid"* TAIZÉ
first time, Sanctuary Choir; second time, all

* Call to Worship Psalm 138

Leader: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart.

People: I will praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

People: You will make good your purpose for us; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 451 "Open My Eyes, That I May See" OPEN MY EYES

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, forgive us for being too set in our ways. We have forgotten the transformation that Easter requires, and have already run back to a Good Friday world. We refuse to see your image in each of your children, and find it easier to love those who think and act and look like us. We keep a tight ledger of the wrongs we have suffered, and we shrug off your call to create the beloved community. Forgive us, holy One, and heal us with your loving Spirit once again. Help us to grow in our faith, to trust in your grace, and to live with the hope that the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ demands, 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism *9a* Katie Nell and Theo Robert Bemisderfer
John Brody and Layla James Shepherd

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
First Scripture Lesson, *Ephesians 4:15-16* p. 951
Second Scripture Lesson, *Acts 15:1-11* p. 899

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

Sermon "They Called a Meeting"

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 Sisters and Brothers, With One Voice* GELOBT SEI GOTT
Offertory *11:15a Spirit, Open My Heart* Fedak
* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

Recognition of New Members *11:15a*

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 297 "In Christ Called to Baptize" ST. DENIO

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 740 *11:15a* LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Please join the choir in singing the Refrain.

* Postlude *Carillon Toccata* Wagner

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Tony Threatt (9a), Ingrid Erwin (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Chanell Moore (9a), Trey Morrow (11:15a), *sponsors*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

The Sanctuary Choir

Rosemary Hughes, Kathi Hurst, Marlon Hurst, Todd Monsell (9a), *quartet*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Judy McKinney, *guitar*, Ted Gentry, *bassoon* (11:15a)

Ingrid Erwin, Sheldon Timmerman, Josie Williams, Thom Wood (11:15a), *handbells*

Michael Riner (9a), Jacob Barker (11:15a), *head ushers*

Zach Weaver, Ben Dillard, Will Edwards, Amy Hawkins, Mary Gentry (9a), *greeters*

George Howell, Ginny Reed, Carrie Marguet,

Trey Morrow, Mandy Pruitt (11:15a), *greeters*

Miles Threatt (9a), James Knauer (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

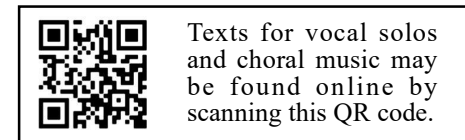
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return 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.

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.



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 Katie Nell Bemisderfer and Theo Robert Bemisderfer, twins of Peter Bemisderfer & Kendall Orders Bemisderfer.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship John Brody Shepherd and Layla James Shepherd, children of Paul Shepherd & Allston Orders Shepherd.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, Sarah Katherine Turner, to Chase & Alex Turner on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

SERMON SERIES: THEN AND NOW

During the Easter season, our sermon series will explore the question, "What does the early church have to teach us?" We will look at how the early church is described in the New Testament, and explore how those descriptions are related to being God's church in the 21st century. Our topic this Sunday is growth.

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, April 21. 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.

2024 CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

Mark your calendars! We are thrilled to announce the 2024 Lowcountry Civil Rights Pilgrimage, from October 11-14. Continuing our tradition of educational experiences that enrich our faith and challenge our present discipleship, we will travel to Charleston to learn more about the Gullah-Geechee community of South Carolina, visit Mother Emmanuel AMC, worship with a historically Black PCUSA congregation organized during Reconstruction, and visit the newly opened International African American Museum in Charleston. Watch the Harbinger and eNews for details and to sign up. Email Leigh Stuckey with questions.

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

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. 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. Spots are limited and can be reserved at the Progressive Pilgrimage portal [https://progressivepilgrimage.com/westminster/]. The estimated cost is \$5971/person with a single supplement of \$950. Round trip airfare, entry fees, transportation-in-country, daily breakfasts, five lunches, seven dinners, and all tips are included. Contact Leigh Stuckey for more information.

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Are you a worker bee with a gift for welcoming others? Join WPC's Hospitality Team! Volunteers receive regular invitations to help with receptions (including donuts!), meals, and other church-wide events. To sign up, contact Wendy Bagley at wendy@wpc-online.org.

THORNWELL SUPPLY DRIVE:

Westminster is a proud supporter of Thornwell. Join our supply drive to support Thornwell's Foster Care Program, which works to provide children in need with safe homes to support trauma recovery and healing while their families cope with crisis. For a list of needed items, visit https://qrco.de/betsMV or scan the QR code. You can drop off items at WPC throughout the month of May.



SUPPLY DRIVE

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Join the WPC Young Adults on Sunday, May 5, following the 10a worship service for food and fellowship at Tacozzini (1818 Augusta St.). Questions? Contact Elizabeth Timmons at leizabethtimmons@gmail.com.

THE SESSION

The Class of 2025

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Jacob Barker | Nikki Grumbine |
| Marian Carpenter | Bill Holt |
| Lindsey Donlan | Ginny Reed |
| Carroll Farmer | Jordan Smith |
| Zach Freeman | Tom Vanderbloemen |
| Susan Grier | Parks Workman |

The Class of 2026

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Ben Bloodworth | Walker Miller |
| Emily Cole | Stan Pendergrass |
| Ingrid Erwin | Betsy Raines |
| Roger Gower | Jeff Reynolds |
| Amy Hawkins | Susan Robbins |
| Anne Howson | Zach Weaver |
| George McLarty | |

The Class of 2027

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Ben Dillard | Creighton Likes |
| Will Edwards | Carrie Marguet |
| Kathryn Freedman | Trey Morrow |
| Mary Gentry | Mandy Pruitt |
| Claire Gilliland | Elizabeth Timmons |
| George Howell | Sam White, Jr |

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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Steve Phillips
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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
April 21-28, 2024

Sunday, April 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Worship Service
New Member Class
- 10:00 One Adult Sunday School
WestConnect (Leigh Miller)
WestConnect (George Howell)
WestConnect (Kathleen Reynolds)
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Middler Choir Rehearsal
Senior High Youth Group

Monday, April 22

- 7:00p Theology Reading Group
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 23

- 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

- 10:00 Thursday Bible Study
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, April 26

Men of Westminster Retreat

Thursday, April 25

Men of Westminster Retreat

Sunday, April 28

Fourth Sunday of Easter

- Men of Westminster Retreat
- 9:00a Worship Service
Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 One Adult Sunday School
WestConnect (Leigh Miller)
WestConnect (George Howell)
WestConnect (Kathleen Reynolds)
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Women of Westminster Spring
Gathering Luncheon
- 4:45 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 WPCYG Green Lot Picnic

SAVE THE DATE

8TH GRADE BIBLE STUDY

All 8th graders are invited to join us for a 4-week Relationships Bible Study on Wednesdays in May (1,8,15,22) from 3:45-4:45p. You may sign up by contacting Wendy in the church office (wendy@wpc-online.org).

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | April 21, 2024 | No. 1

From the Pews, Christa Likes

A few sermons ago, Ben preached on how we are all sent by God. This charge reminds us that all saved Christians are part of a single, unified family, part of the "body" of Christ. We are to train one another in truth. The foundational gospel truths, truths about who God is and what He has called us to do, etc....and our motivation to do so is love.

It is also crucial to the health of Christian congregations that our members use their God-given talents appropriately. We understand that each member of our church has different abilities. What is your gift? Looking at Westminster 20 years down the road, what gifts, time, or talents can you add to allow our church to further exemplify the "body" of Christ? A healthy church is far more powerful than a "big" church. What if God's idea of church growth is not measured with bodies, bucks, and bricks, but with some other measurement entirely?

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, April 22, at 7p. Nikki Grumbine will lead the discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Nikki is presenting the program on behalf of the WPC Creation Stewardship Group. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

ANNUAL LUNCHEON SUNDAY, APRIL 28, AT 12:30P

Please join us for the Annual Women's Luncheon on Sunday, April 28, at 12:30p in the Fellowship Hall. This year's speaker will be Lisa O'Connell Hall, CEO of Jasmine Road and Jasmine Kitchen. Lunch will be catered and all Women of Westminster are invited to attend. Sign ups begin online Tuesday, April 9 - Wednesday, April 24. Contact Jill Fairey (803-920-2071) with any questions.

WESTMINSTER ACADEMY, 10A SUNDAYS

Adult Class: God's Servants, the Prophets

Room 209

Join us for the annual Westminster Academy Series throughout the month of April. This year's lecturer, Dr. Bryan Bibb, will focus on the challenge and promise of the Hebrew Prophets.

Westminster Academy, led each year by local academics, exists to cultivate theological imagination. Adults will meet at 10a for one unified Sunday School class (the class will also stream at wpc-online.org). Past lecturers have included Dr. Peter Hobbie (2019, 2020, 2022) and Dr. Bob Bryant. This year's lecturer, Dr. Bryan Bibb, is a Professor of Religion, with a specialty in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. A 1994 graduate of Furman, Bryan received his MDiv and PhD degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary, and returned as a member of the Furman faculty in 2000. During his career, he has been awarded both the Furman Standard Research Grant and the Alester G. Furman Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching. Bryan has served as the President of the Southeastern regional of the Society of Biblical Literature, as the Board Chairman of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, and as a research fellow with the Nida Institute of the American Bible Society. Having written books about Leviticus and about the Hebrew Prophets, Bryan's current area of research is the history and ideology of Bible translation, and he is also writing a major academic commentary on the book of Numbers for the Word Biblical Commentary series.

Children/Youth Sunday School Class Locations

Children - Growing in Grace & Gratitude

5K/1st (Room 209)
2nd/3rd (Movie Room)
4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth

Middlers (Youth Suite)
Senior Highs (300 Hall)

RHAPSODY OF BELLS CAROLINA BRONZE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT

On Monday, May 6, at 7p, Carolina Bronze will present a Rhapsody of Bells at Westminster Presbyterian Church. A Rhapsody of Bells, featuring 136 bells and chimes along with various percussion instruments, will include music that expresses a wide range of contrasting moods. You'll hear original compositions, transcriptions, and arrangements that include Disney favorites, rock, pop, and music from various ethnicities.

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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir is a low-commitment way to experience leading worship as a choir member. This year there will be three Wednesday night rehearsals: May 8, June 5 and July 31 from 7-8:30p, each to preview the Sunday morning choral anthems for the following several Sundays. Beginning May 12, Summer Choir rehearses from 9-9:45a in anticipation of the 10a service. Summer Choir is open to adults and high school students. For more information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

MAY/JUNE WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

On Sunday, May 5, we will move to our summer schedule, with one worship service at 10a. Not only does this afford us the opportunity to worship together as one congregation during the summer, but it also gives us time for connection and fellowship following worship. Below is our schedule for the month of May and the first Sunday in June. Taking time to build relationships and make new friends is so important for our life together. We hope you will be able to take part in as many of these gatherings as possible!

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 5 | <i>Church Music Sunday</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with reception following the service |
| May 12 | <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with reception following the service |
| May 19 | <i>WPC's Birthday & BBQ Lunch</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• join us as Westminster celebrates 77 years• the annual BBQ lunch will follow worship in the Fellowship Hall |
| May 26 | <i>One Worship Service</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with donuts following the service |
| June 2 | <i>One Worship Service</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with donuts following the service <i>Low Country Boil (5-7p)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• at Magnetic South Brewery |

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| May 26 | <i>One Worship Service</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with donuts following the service |
| June 2 | <i>One Worship Service</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with donuts following the service <i>Low Country Boil (5-7p)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• at Magnetic South Brewery |