



**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Preparation for **Worship**

“When it’s over, I want to say: all my life I was a bride married to amazement. I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms. When it’s over, I don’t want to wonder if I have made of my life something particular, and real. I don’t want to find myself sighing and frightened, or full of argument. I don’t want to end up simply having visited this world.”

—Mary Oliver, “*When Death Comes*”

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 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* arr. Kelsey

\* Call to Worship

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol God, all peoples!

**All:** **For great is God’s steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Let us worship God.**

\* Hymn 755 "Alleluia! Laud and Blessing" WEISSE FLAGGEN

\* Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,**  
**we take the time that you have given us for granted,**  
**instead of treating life as a gift.**  
**We resent our limitations and try to earn our salvation.**  
**We strive for success instead of service.**  
**We hold our neighbors to a strict moral tightrope,**  
**while we grade our own behavior on a curve.**  
**Our fears often lead us forward.**  
**Forgive us, good and gracious God.**  
**Grant us faithful and obedient hearts,**  
**so that we would see our own lives clearly,**  
**hear your call with clarity,**  
**and love our neighbors courageously.**  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

\* Assurance of Pardon

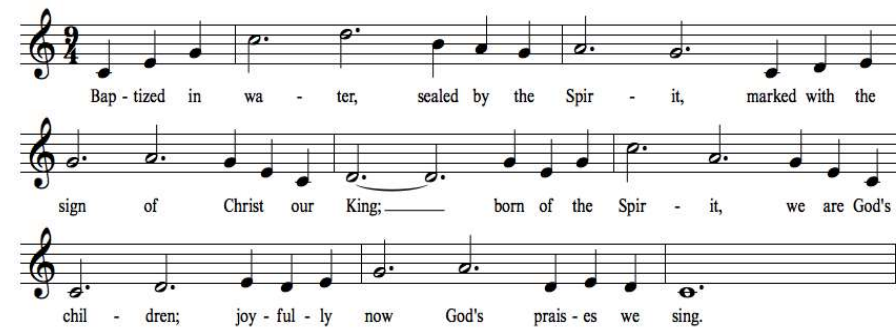
**Leader:** Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**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 *Logan Thomas Johnson*  
 Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" BUNESSAN



Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Genesis 12:1-4* p. 8

Second Scripture Lesson, *Deuteronomy 34:1-8; 10-12* p. 168

**Leader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Beat Goes On"

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 *King of Glory, King of Peace* Scott

\* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDETH

**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 65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" CWM RHONDDA

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Benediction Response

\* Postlude *Toccata in e-minor* Pachelbel

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Leigh Stuckey, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Jacob Barker, *sponsor*

Jade Fountain, *scripture reader*

Nancy Smith, *guest organist*

Emily Sweezey, *soloist*

Aaron Cizon, *head usher*

Ginny Bernard, Mandy Pruitt, Ingrid Erwin, Susan Grier, Trey Morrow, *greeters*

Ella Heegard, *acolyte*

**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.

**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.

**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 *Logan Thomas Johnson*, son of Kevin & Jessica Johnson.

**MARRIAGE**

On Wednesday, June 19, 2024, *Jara Jones* and *Jerry Smith* were united in marriage in Italy.

**SUMMER SERMON SERIES:**

**HEARING GOD’S CALL**

Ever wonder how we can hear God amidst the noise of our lives? Or perhaps what kind of things God is saying? Throughout the summer we will be exploring call stories in the Old Testament. You'll hear still small voices and booming theophanies with messages ranging from good news to fallen kingships. Join us as we turn our ears to some of Scripture's oldest, most colorful stories and learn to listen for the God who still calls us today.

**A GENTLE REMINDER**

Summer is an opportunity for vacations, the beach, and time with family and friends. But even when we are away, the church remains active, with our children and youth ministries going strong, the weekday school running throughout the summer, and numerous outside groups using our facilities. In addition, our mission partners depend on us all year long. If possible, we ask you to consider keeping your giving up to date. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to God’s work at Westminster.



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

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

PLEASANT VALLEY  
COMMUNITY CENTER

## LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, July 17, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (Imaryanncox@gmail.com).

## SUMMER CHOIR

The Summer Choir is off for the month of July and will resume in August with a rehearsal on Wednesday, July 31, at 7p.

Our connection with the Pleasant Valley Community Center continues year round! We invite you to share your hobbies and passions with the children at PVC Summer Camp. There are opportunities for Wednesday and Thursday afternoons all summer. Ideas include sewing, gardening, writing, drawing, playing music, and playing games. Contact Anna Hanor (ahanor@wpc-online.org) to volunteer and for more information.

## PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITIES:

### 2024 CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 11-14

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.

### 2025 A PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND MARCH 12-23

Join us on our inaugural international pilgrimage! The 12-day journey provides a deep dive into the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church.

Contact Leigh Stuckey with questions or for more information regarding either, or both, of these pilgrimages.

## WORSHIP BUDDIES

We are gathering information about families with children with additional support needs who might benefit from having a worship buddy. Worship buddies are adults with backgrounds in supporting the diverse needs of children and they would be available to partner with your child during worship for frequent breaks, varied activities, or an alternate setting. If your child has additional support needs or you're interested in learning more, please contact Lauren Slingerland for more information. <https://wpc-online.org/worship-buddies/>

## 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

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [wpcgreenville](#) | [wpc-online.org](http://wpc-online.org) | 2310 Augusta St.

## 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.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

### Church Staff

Ben Dorr  
Pastor & Head of Staff  
[bdorr@wpc-online.org](mailto:bdorr@wpc-online.org)

Leigh Stuckey  
Executive Associate Pastor  
[lstuckey@wpc-online.org](mailto:lstuckey@wpc-online.org)

Mary Kathleen Duncan  
Associate Pastor  
[mkduncan@wpc-online.org](mailto:mkduncan@wpc-online.org)

Lauren Slingerland  
Associate Pastor  
[lslingerland@wpc-online.org](mailto:lslingerland@wpc-online.org)

Nick Carson  
Associate Pastor  
[ncarson@wpc-online.org](mailto:ncarson@wpc-online.org)

Terri Price  
Parish Associate  
[tprice@wpc-online.org](mailto:tprice@wpc-online.org)

Marlon Hurst  
Director of Music  
[mhurst@wpc-online.org](mailto:mhurst@wpc-online.org)

Todd Monsell  
Organist  
[tmonsell@wpc-online.org](mailto:tmonsell@wpc-online.org)

Cara Puntch  
Weekday School Director  
[cpuntch@wpc-online.org](mailto:cpuntch@wpc-online.org)

Lynn Bennett  
Financial Manager  
[lbennett@wpc-online.org](mailto:lbennett@wpc-online.org)

Michelle Little  
Office Manager  
[michelle@wpc-online.org](mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org)

Wendy Bagley  
Secretary  
[wendy@wpc-online.org](mailto:wendy@wpc-online.org)

Aly Friend  
Director of Nurseries  
[alyfriend@wpc-online.org](mailto:alyfriend@wpc-online.org)

Steve Phillips  
Building Supervisor  
[sphillips@wpc-online.org](mailto:sphillips@wpc-online.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 14-21, 2024

### Sunday, July 14

#### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting  
10:00 Worship Service  
11:00 Donut Fellowship  
4:00p Young Adults BBQ

### Monday, July 15

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

### Tuesday, July 16

12:00p AI-Anon Meeting

### Wednesday, July 17

12:00p Youth Ice Cream & Donuts!  
12:30 Luncheon Group  
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

### Thursday, July 18

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

### Sunday, July 21

#### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting  
10:00 Worship Service  
11:00 Donut Fellowship

## Our Vision:

Open Minds

Open Hearts

## Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

## Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

the

# HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | July 14, 2024 | No. 13

## From the Pews, Rosemary Hughes

“Because I said so!” It’s amazing how very quickly we can sound like our parents when talking to our own children despite all our protestations to the contrary. Sometimes the only explanation we get is simply because someone with authority in our lives (parent, teacher, coach, etc.) directs us to do/not do something.

As the parent of a 15 year-old, driving practice is happening in our house, and while much of the time I do offer guidance backed by sound reasoning and logic based on years of experience, there are times when the temptation arises to merely answer the question that follows the instruction with the classic “because I said so” response.

In today’s scripture passage, God directs Abram to go – to leave his home, his family, his country, his father’s house – and God promises to have Abram’s back. Furthermore, God adds an incentive: Abram’s faithful response will result in blessings upon “all the families of the earth.” So what happens to everyone else if Abram passes on the offer? No pressure, right? Not only does Abram go, he does so without asking questions, at least none that are revealed in these verses. Perhaps the “because I said so” is understood without being verbalized.

It is also interesting to note that Abram agrees to this drastic move at the seasoned age of 75. Even taking into consideration Abram’s extended life span in comparison to modern day, how many of us would be so willing to pack up and move with no context other than “because I said so”? We would likely have questions to be answered and objections to be addressed. At what point do we become too experienced and mature to simply blindly obey without explanation?

Perhaps the point is that God will always have the authority to place a call on our lives that may or may not make sense to us in the moment, and as much as we may want a more complete understanding from the outset, sometimes we have no choice but to trust the voice of the Parent whose “because I said so” is framed in love, infused with wisdom, and driven by a desire to guide and bless “all the families of the earth.”