



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

God of the mysterious garden that flourishes when we least expect, you do not perceive the world as we do. In the smallest seed, you see a home for a host of creatures. From among the overlooked and forgotten, you call disciples to carry out your will. Enable us to regard each person not through the prejudices that have shaped us, but through the love of Jesus Christ, the first fruit of your new creation. 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 *Fantasia in g minor* Bach

* Call to Worship

Leader: Some look to technology or power to bring them salvation,

People: **but we look to God.**

Leader: Some look to quantity or efficiency as signs of success,

People: **but we look to God.**

Leader: For you, O God, have made us whole.

All: **At the works of your hands we sing for joy!
Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" St. DENIO

* Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, have mercy on us,
for we have failed to be faithful to you,
though you have been faithful to us.**

**You show us your wisdom,
but we prefer to go our own way.**

**Our broken relationships with you and one another,
have created poverty in us and our neighbors.**

**In your mercy, reconcile us to you and one another,
for the work of justice, peace, and love,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

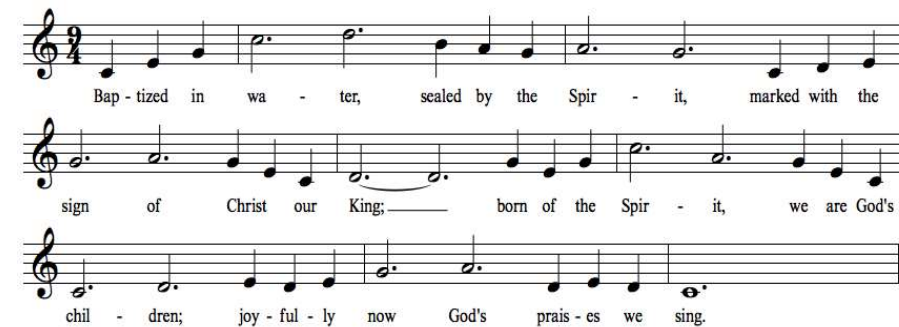
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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 *James Parks McLeod, III*
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

Gospel Lesson, *Mark 4:26-34* p. 815

Old Testament Lesson, *1 Samuel 15:34-16:13* p. 226

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Shepherd Boy"

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, Hymn 548 DICKINSON COLLEGE

"May God Support You All Your Days"

* 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 804 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!" MARION

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response

* Postlude *Toccatina* Simone

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Lauren Slingerland, *preaching*

Nick Carson, *liturgist*

Parks McLeod, Sr., *sponsor*

David Golladay, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *piano/organ*

Rosemary Hughes, Kathi Hurst, Marlon Hurst, Cathy Jabara, Judy McKenney,

Todd Monsell, Hunter Smith, Jordan Smith, *Vocal Ensemble*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Parks Workman, Emily Cole, Roger Gower,

Elizabeth Timmons, Jordan Smith, *greeters*

Mary Eliza Duncan, *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 *James Parks McLeod, III*, son of Parks & Camille McLeod.

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, July 20, 2024, *Lindsey Rowe* and *John Ashmore* were united in marriage at Westminster.

**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.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

PLEASANT VALLEY
COMMUNITY CENTER

6TH GRADE DAY

Calling all rising 6th graders! Come learn about youth group with Lauren and Mary Kathleen on Sunday, August 4, at 11a. We will have lunch together then learn about youth group, have time for questions, and play some games. Parents can pick up from the Fellowship Hall at 1p. Email Anna Hanor (ahanor@wpc-online.org) to RSVP.

BOOK CLUB

On Tuesday, August 6, the WPC Book Club will meet at 6:30p in the library to discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Beth Holliday-Edwards will lead the discussion. All are welcome! Note that book club members are asked to arrive at 5:30p in order to participate in the Long Range Committee's plan survey.

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.

GAMES, FOOD, AND PRIZES!

WPC Kids is hosting a Family Bingo Night on Wednesday, July 31, from 6-8p in the Fellowship Hall. A hot dog supper will be provided. This event is for children ages birth-5th grade and their families. There is no cost, but families are encouraged to register on the WPC website. Email Caroline Blouin at cblouin@wpc-online.org with any questions.

CHORISTERS CHOIRS

Registration for Junior Choristers (grades 1&2) and Senior Choristers (grades 3-5) is now open through Wednesday, August 21. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 4, from 4:30-5:15p. If you have any questions, contact Marlon Hurst.

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.

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.

THE SESSION

The Class of 2025

Jacob Barker
Marian Carpenter
Lindsey Donlan
Carroll Farmer
Zach Freeman
Susan Grier

Nikki Grumbine
Bill Holt
Ginny Reed
Jordan Smith
Tom Vanderbloemen
Parks Workman

The Class of 2026

Ben Bloodworth
Emily Cole
Ingrid Erwin
Roger Gower
Amy Hawkins
Anne Howson
George McLarty

Walker Miller
Stan Pendergrass
Betsy Raines
Jeff Reynolds
Susan Robbins
Zach Weaver

The Class of 2027

Ben Dillard
Will Edwards
Kathryn Freedman
Mary Gentry
Claire Gilliland
George Howell

Creighton Likes
Carrie Marguet
Trey Morrow
Mandy Pruitt
Elizabeth Timmons
Sam White, Jr

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 28-August 4, 2024

Sunday, July 28

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, July 29

4:00p Westminster Weekday School
Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, July 30

12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
Connect, Serve, and Grow Task
Force Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 31

5:00p Westminster Family Bingo Night
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 1

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, August 4

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30a Blessing of the Backpacks
9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service w/communion
11:00 Donut Fellowship
Sixth Grade Day
Emergency Training for Head
Ushers

Our Vision:
*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Grace Loveless

I have grown up at Westminster – my family has been members since the early nineties when they moved to Greenville while I was an infant. Upon moving back to Greenville as an adult seven years ago, it wasn't a question to me of where I would want to raise my own family in faith. As an adult, and attending the sermons – it's taken a much different tone than the sermons of my childhood and adolescence that were merely the background noise to my own inner monologue for an hour. I have been moved to tears, laughed, and made changes in my life based on the sermons I've heard in this sanctuary. I particularly love that our leadership doesn't shy away from preaching on the tough topics, despite our church being varied and diverse.

Today's scripture reading is an interesting one considering this election cycle (without getting political). I won't spoil the whole scripture reading, but the premise is that the Lord does not consider the outward things like we do when choosing a leader – the Lord looks at the heart.

Do we look at the heart of our leaders? Certainly, right now, we are spending a lot of time looking at the outward appearance and age of our elected and potentially elected leaders and perseverating on whether they are still physically fit to lead. But do we ever really look at their hearts? Do we consider whether the people who are leading us into the unknown truly have the heart to do so? Also interesting that David is selected by the Lord and Samuel, but his father and brothers had discounted him – hadn't even brought him in from tending the sheep – to be considered (oops, I spoiled the ending) because he was too young to be a leader, in their minds.

I haven't participated in as many election cycles as many of the people reading this have, and more than some. I don't know the answer to how we can look at our leaders' hearts – but I do know that we should look at our own, and that starts with listening to our local leadership at our Church. So, you've taken a great first step to be here, because our leaders don't shy away from preaching on the topics to help us figure out the answers to these pressing questions.

Thank you for reading, and have a great week.