



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

Fill us with your holy love, O Lord, and open the treasures of your wisdom to us. You alone know all that we desire. So perfect what you have begun in us, and answer the prayers you instill in us, through the stirring of your Holy Spirit. Even as we seek your face, turn to us and show us your glory. Then our longing will be satisfied, and our peace will be complete. Amen.

Augustine of Hippo

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 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Monsell

* Call to Worship Psalm 145

Leader: The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

People: **The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.**

Leader: You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

People: **The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 509 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" HOLY MANNA

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, by your power you created us, and by your goodness we are called to be your holy people. We confess that we have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have filled our lives with that which does not nourish, choosing greed over grace, callousness over kindness, and indifference over justice. Forgive us, gracious Lord, and free us from selfishness. Help us to be generous with our thoughts, kind with our words, courageous with our faith, and abundant with our love. 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.

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *John 6:1-14* p. 867

Second Scripture Lesson, *John 6:23-27a, 33-35* p. 867

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Cravings"

Responding to **God's Word**

*Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Music During Communion

We Come to the Hungry Feast Sedio

Hymn 497, "Bread of Life from Heaven" ARGENTINE SANTO

Communion in Christ Smith

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory *O Bread of Life from Heaven* White

* 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 500 "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread" ST. FLAVIAN

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 501 "Feed Us, Lord" FEED US

* Postlude *Fanfare* Lemmens

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*

Ginny Bernard, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Judy Mckenney, *guitar*

Kathryn Knauer, Derek Pitman, *soloists*

The Sanctuary Choir

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Creighton Likes, Stan Pendergrass, George McLarty,

Ben Bloodworth, Mary Gentry, *greeters*

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Shepherd Boyer Wagner*, to Ben & Lauren Wagner on Thursday, July 25, 2024.

We Remember in Prayer

Lynne Robinson on the death of her step-mother, Peggy S. Robinson, on Friday, July 19, 2024.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Children are invited to bring their backpack for a blessing this Sunday, August 4, at 9:30a in the Sanctuary Atrium. Along with prayers for a year of learning and growing, they'll receive a backpack tag to remind them of God's love through the school year. Join us as we celebrate and pray for a new school year!

6TH GRADE DAY

Calling all rising 6th graders! Come learn about youth group with Lauren and Mary Kathleen this 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.



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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 Connect, Serve, Grow Task Force's survey.

CONNECTIONS

Connections, a lunch group for singles and couples, will meet on Sunday, August 18, at Lieu's Chinese Bistro (1149 Woodruff Rd) at 11:30a following the 10a worship service. Please RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, August 16. Newcomers are always welcome!

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.

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.

Instructions for Communion Today

If you are seated in the main section of pews, you will proceed up the center aisle to receive communion. Please wait for an usher to prompt your row. Please take communion from one of the serving stations at the front of the chancel located on the same side as your pew, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

When you come to a serving station, take a piece of bread from the plate, dip the bread in the cup, and eat. All cups contain grape juice.

If you are seated in the transept pews at either side of the sanctuary, you will take communion from the servers at the back of the transept. The section of pews closest to the chancel will go first. Please wait to be prompted by the usher. When prompted, please proceed down the center aisle of the transept, take communion at the back of the transept, returning to your pew via the side transept aisle closest to your pew.

Please remain quiet during communion so that those who wish to pray may do so.

If you would like to receive communion but are unable to come forward, or if you would simply prefer to remain seated, there are two servers to provide you with communion, one on each side aisle. When the servers approach your pew, simply raise your hand to indicate that you would like to receive communion in your seat.

The bread we are offering at today's communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sour dough (rice flour, water), rice starch, cornstarch, sugars (rice syrup, caramelized sugar), modified cellulose, psyllium seed husk (vegetable fibre), sunflower oil, pea protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fibre, rice flour, quinoa flour, salt, guar gum, corn flour. May Contain: Mustard, Sesame.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE HARBINGER

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[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

August 4-11, 2024

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
11:15 Emergency Training for Head Ushers

Monday, August 5

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 6

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

Thursday, August 8

12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, August 11

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Donut Fellowship
WPC Kids and WPCYG Training Event

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 | August 4, 2024 | No. 16

From the Pews, Skip Gordon

How many times in our busy lives do we do things, or purchase things after which we quickly forget what we have done or purchased? A few weeks ago, my wife, Carrie, and I visited my sister in a mountain suburb of Denver. We escaped the heat of Greenville and had a great time visiting with each other – hiking, reminiscing and telling long forgotten family stories. Even though the visit was great, we can no longer easily remember what we did each day. What did we do on the Wednesday of that visit?

Everything we do throughout our lives is transitory. Can you even remember what you ate two weeks ago? Does it even matter now what you ate two weeks ago? Will you wear this fall that nice sweater that you bought last fall, or do you have a replacement?

Today's scripture takes place after the feeding of thousands. In this time and place, food is often very scarce, and hunger is a problem for many of the people. No wonder people follow Jesus looking for more food – not spiritual salvation. However, Jesus wants them to focus on him and not things that he might bring. He admonishes them by saying that if you believe in him, you will never be hungry or thirsty. He is bringing "food" that endures for eternal life.

What Jesus is saying is that food (or the things we do in life) is short-lived while spiritual food leads to eternal life. There are numerous Biblical passages addressing earthly possessions. We are not prohibited from earning and enjoying worldly possessions. Rather, we are called not to hoard these possessions, as we cannot take them with us. Instead, we are commanded to use our worldly treasures to grow spiritually to seek heavenly riches.

In today's world, I interpret the Biblical earthly possessions to include non-physical things such as attending concerts, football games, family events, and even friends' gatherings. Traveling to see family, buying a sweater, or attending a concert are all acceptable if we remember that the results of doing these things is ephemeral. Faith in Jesus provides us with eternal salvation and that gift of eternal salvation is given to us free of charge.