

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“Here it is that we encounter the hidden, unknown, incomprehensible God, to whom nothing is impossible, the Lord...Here is Beginning and End, the road and the goal of the thought of God...Here is the inner meaning of Christianity, which defies analysis. The Church hopes...There is no other hope. Would that the Church might comprehend it!”

Karl Barth, comments on Romans 11:32 in *The Epistle to the Romans*

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 *Adagio Cantabile* Mendelssohn

Introit, Hymn 399 "God Welcomes All" THEMBA AMEN

* Call to Worship Colossians 1:15, 17, 19-20

Leader: Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

People: **Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

Leader: For in Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

People: **Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to God's self all things, whether on earth or in heaven.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" HYMN TO JOY

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
far too often we swim in the shallow waters of our faith.
We imagine that our thoughts are your thoughts,
and your ways are our ways.
We rationalize acts of violence, greed, carelessness, and cruelty.
We pretend that when push comes to shove,
we can fix our own problems, restore our own futures,
and save our own souls.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Show us once again that you are Lord of all.
Let us see your face in the unlikeliest of people
and experience your grace in the wildest of ways.
Overwhelm our hearts with your loving-kindness,
so that our lives would be a doxology
of praise and service to you. 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 *Sutton Wilds Propp*
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, *Galatians 3:25-29* p. 947

Second Scripture Lesson, *Romans 11:32-36* p. 922

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

Sermon "The Most Radical Word Paul Uses"

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 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* arr. Ferguson

Please stand as invited and join the Sanctuary Choir in singing the final stanza:

**O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.**

* 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 301 "Let Us Build a House" TWO OAKS

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 742 "We Will Walk with God" SIZOHAMBA NAYE

* Postlude *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* Callahan

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Nick Carson, *liturgist*

George McLarty, *sponsor*

Anna Hanor, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist/soloist*

Sanctuary Choir

Bryan Kelley, *head usher*

Ginny Bernard, Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen,

Parks Workman, Ben Bloodworth, *greeters*

Nora Blouin, Ella Heegard, *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

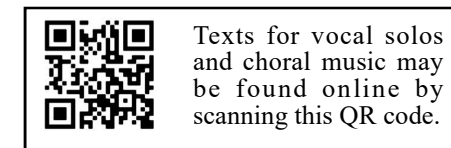
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return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

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Emma Elizabeth Haarsgaard*, to Patrick & Jessica Haarsgaard on Tuesday, August 20, 2024.

In Memoriam

Anderson Horne
(8/15/1973 - 8/25/2024)

*"I am the resurrection and the life."
- John 11:25*

FALL SERMON SERIES

"Against the Grain: Paul's Radical Message of Love and Hope"

The letters of the Apostle Paul are the earliest documents of the New Testament, written before any of the Gospels. They have shaped Christian theology and thought for centuries, and remain a powerful message of love and hope today. Our fall sermon series will explore Paul's theology and the ways in which his message is good news, particularly in a time of cultural division, religious decline, and an upcoming election season. The topic this Sunday is Paul's use of the word "all."

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, September 15, at 4:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

WESTCONNECT

WestConnect groups are starting up again this October! WestConnect is a weekly small group ministry gathered around fellowship, study, and prayer. Fill out an interest form (located in the Ritual of Friendship books) to sign up, or contact Nick Carson with any questions.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, September 16, at 7 p.m. Amos Workman will lead the discussion of *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

PVC HOMEWORK HELPERS NEEDED

Consider joining the wonderful team of homework helpers at Pleasant Valley. You will be paired with an elementary student to work with for the school year on homework and skills. We have availability Monday-Thursday afternoons for 30mins or 1hr time slots. Email Anna Hanor (ahanor@wpc-online.org) for more information and to get plugged into this great group!

BASKETBALL

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register online for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 13. Registration may be accessed on the church's website (wpc-online.org). WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

CONNECT, SERVE, GROW SURVEY

Our long-range planning team, the Connect, Serve, Grow Task Force, needs your input! A survey has been created to gather feedback from all Westminster members, confirmed 10th graders and older. Your participation is essential as we evaluate Westminster's strengths, gifts, and future needs. The survey should take about 10-15 minutes and can be accessed through the QR code. If you prefer a paper copy, please contact the church office. For households with multiple confirmed members, we hope each of you will participate. The survey will remain open until the end of September.



YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Join the WPC Young Adults this Sunday, September 8, following the 11:15a worship service for food and fellowship at Topsy Taco (15 Conestee Ave). Questions? Contact Emily Lordo at emilylordo@gmail.com.

CHERUB CHOIR

It's time for Westminster's youngest voices, 4K and 5K children, to register for Cherub Choir. Cherub Choir Director, Diana Dailey, will expose young voices to new sounds and experiences through music beginning October 2. Cherubs will meet in Room 210 from 3:30-4p. Parents may also volunteer to help with Cherubs on Wednesday. For more information, contact Diana Dailey (ddailey@wpc-online.org).

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC

Music is an important way to communicate with young children even before they are able to sing along. First Steps in Music is an opportunity at Westminster that provides important time for parents or grandparents to enjoy music with their child/grandchild. Led by Diana Dailey, the First Steps classes teach simple songs, games, and prayers for 2 and 3 year olds and adults to experience together. The next class will be offered from 4:30-5p beginning Sunday, October 6. Click here to register or contact Diana Dailey for more information.

Our Vision:
*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

wpcgreenville | wpc-online.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 8-15, 2024

Sunday, September 8

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Kick-Off Breakfast & Ministry Fair
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Young Adults Lunch
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, September 9

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 10

- 12:00p AI-Anon Meeting
- 2:00 Circle #3
- 3:45 PVC Tutoring Training

Wednesday, September 11

- 9:00a Circle #6
- 9:30 Weekday Chapel
- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 12

- 10:00a Thursday Bible Study
- 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, September 15

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Creation Stewardship Meeting
- Membership Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
- 4:30 Baptism Class
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Deb VanderVeer

In Romans 11:32, “For God has consigned ALL to disobedience, that he may have mercy on ALL,” truly, Paul is writing about ALL Jews and ALL Gentiles here. This verse 32 goes with verses 25-32, which is about God’s promise of Israel’s restoration. The latter verses, 33-36, are about Israel’s restoration and the occasion for glorifying God.

In Romans 11:32, Paul is addressing two groups of people, Jews and Gentiles. God has turned both groups “ALL” over to their disobedience for a time – so people from both groups may receive mercy from him in the right time through faith in Christ.

Now, let’s turn our attention to the last verse, Romans 11:36. Not only are all things from God, through God, but “to him are all things, to him be the glory forever.”

Do you love the thought that you exist to make God look glorious? Do you love the thought that ALL creation exists to display the glory of God? Do you love the fact that your salvation is meant to put the glory of God’s grace on display?

God created the universe. He ordained history. He sent his Son. We exist to see and savor and show glory to God.

Let us treasure and find much joy in our amazing awesome God! And what a wonderful God he is!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 10

- Circle 3, at the home of Eleanor Peters (500 Berkman Ln, 29605) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Wednesday, September 11

- Circle 6, at the home of Liz Einstein (223 Camille Ave) at 9a. Circle Co-Chairs: Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) and Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com).

Tuesday, September 17

- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Contact: Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

WOW Fall Kick Off Social Thursday, September 19 at 6p

Join us, and bring a friend or few, to celebrate the kick off of our fall/winter season. We will gather at the home of Laurie Koch (5 Frontus St, 29605). Light refreshments and beverages will be served. This has always been a great event to attend and meet new and old friends. Look for more information on our Instagram.

WOW SOCIAL Wednesday, October 16 at 6p

Join us for our monthly Happy Hour Social at the New York Butcher Shop. Come enjoy being with your WOW friends.

WOW Church-Wide Lunch Sunday, October 27 at 12p

Enjoy a yummy meal with WOW members and family. We will have a football themed raffle to support our Scholarship Fund for Fostering Great Ideas.

WOW SOCIAL Tuesday, November 19 at 6p

Join us for our monthly Happy Hour Social at Hoppin Greenville. Come enjoy being with your WOW friends.

WOW ADVENT LUNCHEON Sunday, December 8 at 12p

Join us for an afternoon of lunch and fellowship as we prepare for the Advent season.

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Children Sunday School Class Locations

Shine Curriculum

*5K/1st (Room 109)
2nd/3rd (Movie Room)*

Illustrated Ministry Mini-Revolutions

4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth on Sunday Mornings

Two Sundays a month, our **Middlers** are invited to hang-out in the Entrance Pavilion and enjoy self-guided devotions and free time in the gym. This time will be supported by parent volunteers who will serve as an adult presence. Sundays this fall are 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/10/, 11/24, and 12/8.

Senior Highs are invited to join our Senior High WestConnect that will begin meeting in October and is facilitated by youth elder, Ben Bloodworth. You can sign-up online beginning the third week of September.

On Sunday morning when we don't have formal plans for our youth, they are invited to hang out in the Friendship Court, Library, or Atrium. Check out some books, bring your homework, or enjoy catching up with friends.

Adult Sunday School (September 8-29)

***Sola What? Exploring Capital "R" Reformed Faith for the 21st Century led by Leigh Stuckey
Room 209***

In the 16th Century Martin Luther revolutionized the Western world with his Ninety-Five Theses. Through his protests a new church movement began. Yet even then questions about how one comes to know God, how one is reconciled to God, and how one experiences God in worship were hotly contested. In opposition to Lutheranism and Episcopalianism a new "Reformed" theology began to be developed—one focused on God's absolute sovereignty, the revelation of God in the Word, and the glory of God in creation. From Reformed theology came Presbyterianism. "Sola What?" will explore classical Reformed theology—from the shape of worship to the much dreaded "predestination"—and its application to our life at Westminster.

***A Prophet Has No Home: Understanding the Housing Crisis and What We Can Do About It
Room 212***

Hear from a series of speakers as we explore one of the most critical issues facing our community: housing and homelessness.

September 8: **Bill Holt** will explore theological concepts of "housing" and the Christian imperative to care for our neighbors.

September 15: Hear from **United Ministries Executive Director Lizzie Bebber** about the housing crisis in Greenville and how one nonprofit is caring for some of Greenville's most vulnerable residents.

September 22: Join **Greenville City Councilwoman Dorothy Dowe** to explore how our city government is managing growth and addressing the housing crisis.

September 29: Hear from **Susan McLarty, Executive Director of Greenville Homeless Alliance**, about best practice in caring for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and what we can learn from other cities.

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