



Second Sunday of Advent
Preparation for Worship

Almighty God, your promises are fulfilled in surprising and astonishing ways. Through a poor young woman in a backwater town long ago, you gave birth to your realm of endless glory. By your Holy Spirit, fill us with your tender power and overshadow us with your peace. Grant that we would have the courage to die to our old self and rise to the new, as we wait for the One who will make all things new, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.**

Introit 9a *Dance and Sing for the Lord Will Be With Us* Hebrew Folk/arr. Hopson

Prelude 11:15a *Lo, How A Rose Is Growing* Leavitt

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a *Brad & Sarah Lucas, Bradley, Laney, Murray, and Maisie*
11:15a *Scott & Rachael Benson, Camille and Harris*

* Call to Worship

Leader: On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ.
People: **We bear witness with all the faithful of every time and place.**

Leader: With the prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord.

People: **And we prepare for the one who will bring righteousness and peace to the earth.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL
(Verses 1, 4, 6 & 7 only)

* Prayer of Confession

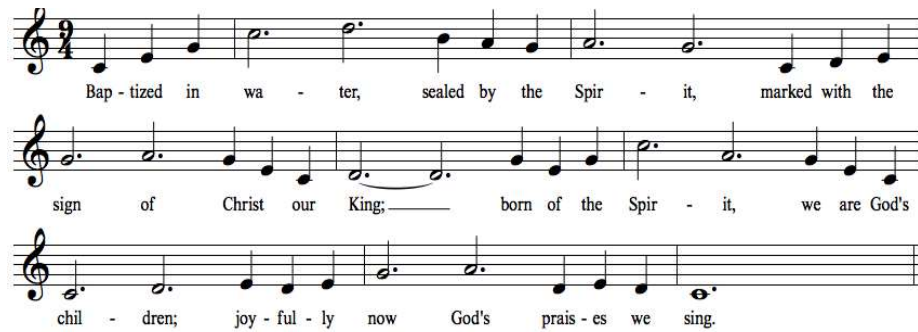
Holy God, we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
You create space for us in your heart and home,
yet we find no room for you in our lives.
We build walls by staying busy,
we refuse to let go of old wounds,
and we are scared of becoming who you call us to be.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Make us holy and make us whole.
Set us free to love our neighbor, to welcome the stranger,
to serve one another,
and to rejoice in the promised birth of your Son, Jesus Christ,
through whom 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 *Emma Elizabeth Haarsgaard*
11:15a *Sutton LaRue Orren and Bodie John Orren*
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

Gospel Lesson, *Luke 1:26-38* p. 831

Old Testament Lesson, *Isaiah 11:1-9* p. 558

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

Sermon "Eating Straw for Advent"

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 *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Eillingboe

Offertory 11:15a *My Lord, What a Morning* Spiritual/arr. Burleigh

* Doxology Hymn 108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Stanza 6: **Christ, to thee with God the Father,**
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn 129 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Es Ist Ein' Ros'

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude "And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah* Handel
**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Carroll Farmer (9a), Gwen Young (11:15a), *sponsors*

Rosemary Hughes (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Youth Choirs (9a)

The Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Kathryn Knauer (11:15a), *soloist*

Bryan Kelley (9a), Parks Workman (11:15a), *head ushers*

Nikki Grumbine, Emily Cole, Zach Freeman,

Ben Bloodworth, Ingrid Erwin (9a), *greeters*

Tom Vanderbloemen, Ben Dillard, Susan Robbins,

Kathryn Freedman, Ginny Bernard (11:15a), *greeters*

Mary-Frances Reynolds, Virginia Reynolds (9a), *acolytes*

Ella Heegard (11:15a), *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

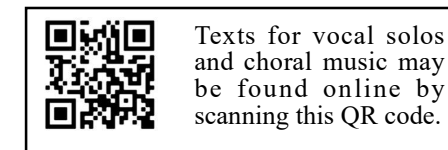
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return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

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 *Emma Elizabeth Haarsgaard*, daughter of Patrick & Jessica Haarsgaard.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Sutton LaRue Orren and Bodie John Orren*, twins of John & Olivia Orren.

ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Throughout the season of Advent we will sing the final stanza of "Of the Father's Love Begotten" as our Trinitarian Doxology following the offertory. This is one of many Doxology verses found in the hymnal. As with the lighting of the Advent candles, our singing of it helps us to mark this season as a time set apart, while also pointing us toward the first chapter of the Gospel of John - the final lesson read in our Lessons and Carols service on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

RETIREMENT GIVING

Make Qualified Distributions from your IRAs: Westminster members age 70.5 and older can support the church with a gift from their Individual Retirement Account. Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs may offer tax advantages while benefiting WPC's local and global ministries. Contact the church office for more information.

COMMUNITY BOOK FAIR NIGHT

On Wednesday, December 11 (5:30-7:30p), the Scholastic Book Fair, hosted by the WWS, will be open to the community in the Fellowship Hall. Come and shop for Christmas gifts or new books for the season!

2024 PLEDGE UPDATE

As of the end of October, we are over 80% through the year, and have received 67% of pledges made for 2024. Please check your quarterly giving statement to see where you stand with your 2024 giving. Thank you for your generosity with Westminster!

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir is a part time choral ensemble that meets periodically to prepare a choral anthem for presentation in the 9a worship service. This is a good opportunity for those who wish to participate in a choir but who are unable to make the commitment for weekly participation in the Sanctuary Choir. All are welcome to sing! For more information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music. Upcoming schedule: Tuesday, December 10: Rehearsal, 7-7:45p; Sunday, Dec. 15 – Sing in 9a Worship.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
CIRCLE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Tuesday, December 10

- Circle 3, at the home of Frances Roe (5 Landsdown Ave, 29601) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Wednesday, December 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).

PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY:
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.

VOLUNTEER FOR PROJECT HOST

Please consider signing up to volunteer at Project Host in 2025. This is a great opportunity to serve our community with other members of Westminster. Four volunteers are needed every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. During this time, you will prepare a nutritious lunch, serve the patrons, and clean up after lunch service. Please sign up at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration>. Contact Susan Clark at 864-982-4130 or susanhunterclark@gmail.com for more information.

WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL TERM
NOVEMBER 10-DECEMBER 8

Unpacking "I AM:" Jesus' Self-Revelation in the Gospel of John
Leigh Stuckey
Room 209 and Streaming

In the Gospel of John Jesus boldly proclaims his identity: the bread of life, the light of the world, the shepherd, the resurrection and the life, the good shepherd, the way, truth, and life, and the true vine. Each saying reveals something new of Jesus' character. Join Leigh for a series of lively lectures exploring the context and abiding legacies of Jesus' "I AM" statements.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
SOTERIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WPC is continuing monthly dinners with the women of Soteria! Our next dinner is Monday, December 9. We are looking for women to bring dinner and participate in fellowship with residents of the Soteria Women's House. Please email Brooke Culclasure (bculclasure@mac.com) to volunteer.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Men of Westminster will be hosting its annual Christmas social at Southenside Brewing (25 Delano Dr), on Thursday, December 12, at 5:30p. We hope all can join for socializing and fellowship.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a lunch group for singles and doubles, will meet on December 15 at 12:45p at City Range (615 Haywood). Please RSVP to ruthjohnst51@gmail.com by Friday, December 13. Newcomers are always welcome!

CHORISTER'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL:

LIGHT OF THE WORLD
by Mark Patterson

The Junior and Senior Chorister choirs will present *Light of the World* by Mark Patterson at the 11:15a worship service on Sunday, December 15. *Light of the World* incorporates carols from around the globe, and children will be singing in English, German, and French as they tell the story of Jesus's birth, good news for all the earth!



wpcgreenville | 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

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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sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 8-15, 2024

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00a Youth Choir Breakfast
- 8:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Adult Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon
- 4:00 Cherub Choir Christmas
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group

Monday, December 9

Weekday School Book Fair

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous
New Member Forums

Tuesday, December 10

Weekday School Book Fair

- 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
- 3:00 Circle 3
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 11

Weekday School Book Fair

- 9:00a Circle 6
- 9:30 Weekday Chapel
- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 5:30 Community Book Fair Night
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

Weekday School Book Fair

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

Friday, December 13

Weekday School Book Fair

- 5:00p Magi Market Organizational Meeting

Saturday, December 14

Magi Market at Pleasant Valley Connection

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:15a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Adult Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
- 12:45 Connections Group
- 4:30 Youth to Camelot Theatre

the

HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | December 8, 2024 | No. 34

From the Pews, Grace Loveless

As we enter the second week of Advent, it can feel difficult to focus on the heart of the season amidst the distractions of the world. The demands of holiday preparations, the pressures of daily life, and the constant noise of global events can make it hard to pause and reflect. Yet Advent calls us to step away from the chaos and embrace the stillness, to seek the deeper meaning of Christmas in the midst of it all.

The true meaning of this season lies not in the glittering lights or perfectly wrapped gifts, but in the quiet miracle that took place in a humble manger over two thousand years ago. God chose to step into a broken, hurting world not with fanfare, but in simplicity and vulnerability. Jesus' arrival reminds us that even in the darkest times, hope and peace are born in the most unexpected places.

In a world filled with uncertainty, Advent invites us to remember that God is present, working in ways we may not always see or understand. It's a reminder that even in times of division and despair, the light of Christ continues to shine, offering peace to our restless hearts.

This season, we are called to turn our focus from what is fleeting to what is eternal. We are invited to look beyond the distractions and rediscover the profound truth of Christmas: that God's love is with us, always. It is in acts of kindness, moments of forgiveness, and the simple grace of showing up for one another that we reflect this love to the world.

Advent reminds us to prepare our hearts not just for Christmas Day, but for the ways Christ meets us here and now. It challenges us to pause, to be still, and to reflect on what truly matters. How can we carry the hope of the manger into our homes, our communities, and our everyday lives? How can we allow the peace of Christ to transform not only this season but also the way we live year-round?

This week, as we light the second candle of the Advent wreath, let its flame remind us to seek the peace that surpasses all understanding. May it inspire us to find the true meaning of the season—not in what we do, but in who we are called to be as God's people.



As he lay swaddled in the manger, Jesus received three gifts from the wise men. To mark the surprise, delight, and joy of that morning two millennia ago, it has been the practice of Christians to exchange gifts with one another on Christmas morning, a tradition that connects us to our past and to generations and communities who have gone ahead of us. Westminster is proud to host the Second Annual Magi Market at Pleasant Valley Connection on Saturday, December 14. Members of Westminster are asked to help provide gifts to stock the shelves of our one-day toy store. Children will receive three gifts (one small, medium, and large) and a stuffed stocking. Each family goes home with a Christmas book and game or puzzle of their choice. We need volunteers to help set up the store, provide hospitality as families shop for gifts, and break down after all the shopping has ended. Find out more about the Market by scanning the QR code above or contact Carrie Marguet (carriemarguet@gmail.com).

Advent & Christmas at Westminster

December 8 *Second Sunday of Advent*
 Women of Westminster Advent Luncheon
 12:30p in the Fellowship Hall
 Cherub Choir Christmas
 4p in the Sanctuary

December 14 Magi Market at Pleasant Valley Connection

December 15 *Third Sunday of Advent*
 9a Worship in the Sanctuary
 Children's Musical
 11:15a in the Sanctuary

December 22 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
 The 64th Annual Service of Lessons & Carols
 One Worship Service at 11:15a in the Sanctuary
 Reception preceding service in Sanctuary Atrium

December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
 4p and 6p in the Sanctuary

December 29 One Worship Service
 11:15a in the Sanctuary
 Reception preceding service in Sanctuary Atrium

POINSETTIA/ENDOWMENT/HERITAGE LECTURE MEMORIALS

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in three ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00 or you may give to either the Endowment or Heritage Lecture Funds. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend. Orders must be placed by Sunday, December 15.

Donor _____
 In Memory of _____
 In Memory of _____
 In Honor of _____
 In Honor of _____

Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$_____ Endowment:_____ Heritage Lecture: _____



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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SUPPERS WITH SEVEN
JANUARY - MARCH 2025**

Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to establish and renew relationships with members of the Westminster church community. "Suppers With Seven" is seven (or so) persons - some couples, some singles, some older and some younger - gathering for a series of two or three meals at a time convenient to the group. To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Suppers With Seven page. The deadline to sign up is Monday, January 6.

Name(s): _____ (include both names, if a couple)
Phone: _____ (will be shared with your group)
Email Address: _____ (will be shared with your group)

Preferred Method of Contact: ___ email ___ phone call ___ text

Please check as many as apply:

- _____ I/We can host and lead the first gathering of Suppers with Seven.
- _____ I/We cannot host the first gathering but would consider a subsequent one.
- _____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

Our Vision:
*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF FUND

Westminster has established a Hurricane Helene Relief Fund. Our Witness & Service Committee will determine the most urgent needs through our partner agencies and decide how best to use the funds. If you would like to give to this fund, you may make a check to Westminster, and write "Hurricane Helene Relief Fund" in the memo line. Or you may give through our website. On the Westminster homepage (wpc-online.org), click the Give Today link. That redirects to the Give webpage. On this page, click the Make a Gift/Give Today link. Fill in the requested information, choosing "Hurricane Helene Relief Fund" from the "I am giving today..." dropdown menu. Continue to fill in the requested information, clicking Submit to finalize the transaction. Thank you for your generosity during this difficult time for so many in our Greenville community and our neighbors in North Carolina!

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Grow*

HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF FUND

Westminster has established a Hurricane Helene Relief Fund. Our Witness & Service Committee will determine the most urgent needs through our partner agencies and decide how best to use the funds. If you would like to give to this fund, you may make a check to Westminster, and write "Hurricane Helene Relief Fund" in the memo line. Or you may give through our website. On the Westminster homepage (wpc-online.org), click the Give Today link. That redirects to the Give webpage. On this page, click the Make a Gift/Give Today link. Fill in the requested information, choosing "Hurricane Helene Relief Fund" from the "I am giving today..." dropdown menu. Continue to fill in the requested information, clicking Submit to finalize the transaction. Thank you for your generosity during this difficult time for so many in our Greenville community and our neighbors in North Carolina!