



First Sunday in Lent
Preparation for Worship

Only thou art above, and when towards thee
By thy leave I can look, I rise again;
But our old subtle foe so tempteth me,
That not one hour I can myself sustain;
Thy grace may wing me to prevent his art,
And thou like adamant draw mine iron heart.
John Donne

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 *Rhosymedre* Vaughan Williams

* Call to Worship

Leader: For forty days and forty nights, the rain fell.
For forty years, the people wandered.
People: **Moses spent forty days on the mountain.
Elijah spent forty days in the wilderness.**
Leader: Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days
and was tested by the devil.
People: **During these forty days,
lead us, O Lord, from death to life.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 806 Psalm 146: "I'll Praise My Maker" OLD 113TH

* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God,
we confess that we are distracted and broken people.
Our lives are centered around our own security.
Our goals are focused on our own success.
Our money is spent on our own desires and needs.
Far too often, our faith is swallowed by our fears.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Focus our minds and remake our hearts.
Grant us courage to step outside our comfort zones
during this holy season.
Help us to look honestly at the cracks and chasms in our faith,
so that as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem,
our love for our neighbor and for you would grow. 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.**

11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Luke 4:1-13* p. 835

Second Scripture Lesson, *Luke 9:51-62* p. 843

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "To Jerusalem"

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

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

The bread will be held and taken together. The cup will be taken individually.

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory 9a *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* arr. Bumett

11:15a *Come to the Feast* Kook

* 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 166 "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days" ST. FLAVIAN

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Toccata* Eberlin

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Susan Grier (9a), Bob Dellert (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Les Hicken (9a), clarinet

Chancel Choir (9a)

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Bryan Kelley (9a), Jeff Reynolds (11:15a), *head ushers*

Tom Vanderbloemen, George McLarty, Tim Reed,

Trey Morrow, Mandy Pruitt(9a), *greeters*

Zach Weaver, Carroll Farmer, Tom Vanderbloemen,

Walker Miller, Creighton Likes (11:15a), *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.

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a son, *George Connell Felt*, to Tyler & Mary Knight Felt, on Monday, February 17, 2025.

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Harry McKinnon Williamson, Jr.*, to Harry & Taylor Williamson, on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

SPRING SERMON SERIES

The World Turned Upside Down:
Exploring the Gospel of Luke

In some ways, Luke is the most well-known and beloved of the four Gospels. Only in Luke do we hear about shepherds at Christmas, the parables of the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, and the Easter story of the road to Emmaus. Luke is a Gospel with prominent themes of table fellowship, forgiveness, and joy. At the same time, some of the most challenging words and parables of Jesus are found in Luke—teachings that deal with repentance, money, and lost opportunities to live for God. Our sermon series this spring will explore Luke, and the “upside down” kingdom of God that Jesus preaches in this Gospel. Our subject this week is journeying to Jerusalem with Jesus.

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME:

Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour Saturday night, March 8.

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION

Our goal is to provide elements for communion that all are able to consume. It is an act of hospitality mirrored in God's hospitality inviting us to the table. 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, comstarch, 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.

NOW HIRING: CHILDCARE PROVIDERS AT WPC

Westminster is currently seeking childcare providers to care for children ages 3 months to 4K during church services and events. Whether you're looking for regular or occasional work, we welcome your interest! If you're passionate about working with children and would like to join our team, please contact Lauren Slingerland for more details and to apply.

- Pay Rate: Starting at \$17 per hour
- Age Group: Children ages 3 months - 4K
- Flexible Hours: Regular and occasional opportunities available

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Get ready for a week of fun, faith, and adventure as we explore the "Waves of Wonder" in God's creation through exciting lessons, creative crafts, games, and more! VBS is the perfect place for kids to grow closer to God and make lasting memories.

- Event Date and Time: June 9-13, 9a-12p
- Ages: Rising K5-5th grade
- Registration Link: Visit the church's website to sign up!

Spaces are limited, and priority will be given to WPC members, so be sure to register early. We can't wait to see your child there as we embark on an unforgettable adventure!

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 11

- Circle 3, at the home of Susan Robbins (1117 Parkins Mill Rd) at 2p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).

Wednesday, March 12

- Circle 6, at the home of Sherry Tate (207 Camille Ave) at 9a. Circle Co-Chairs: Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) and Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com).

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, March 17 at 7p. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion of *James*, a novel by Percival Everett. All are welcome.

CHANCEL HANDBELL CHOIR

Chancel Bells is a part-time ensemble that gathers for two rehearsals to prepare a simple handbell piece to present at a 9a worship service. Participation is open to all who are proficient music readers. The next opportunity will be: Rehearsals - Tuesdays, March 18 and 25, 6-6:45p; Worship - Sunday, March 30. A minimum of 8 ringers are required for the ensemble to proceed. To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music. The deadline to register is Monday, March 10, 9a.




YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Join the WPC Young Adults on Sunday, March 30, following the 11:15a worship service for food and fellowship at Blockhouse Restaurant (1619 Augusta St.). Questions? Contact Emily Lordo at emilylordo@gmail.com.

MEN OF WESTMINSTER:

ANNUAL RETREAT MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER APRIL 25-27, 2025

All men of Westminster are invited to the third annual men's retreat in Montreat, NC. Nick Carson, Associate Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$280. Sign up online at wpc-online.org. For more information, contact Tony Threatt (tony.threatt@gmail.com).

   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.

Church Staff

Ben Dorr
Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey
Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan
Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland
Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Nick Carson
Associate Pastor
ncarson@wpc-online.org

Terri Price
Parish Associate
tprice@wpc-online.org

Marlon Hurst
Director of Music
mhurst@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell
Organist
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch
Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Lynn Bennett
Financial Manager
lbennett@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 9-16, 2025

Sunday, March 9

First Sunday in Lent

Daylight Savings Time starts

- 8:15a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 Worship Service with communion
Confirmation Class
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect (Miller - 213)
WestConnect (Reynolds - 312)
WestConnect (Buchanan - 313)
WestConnect (Bloodworth/Fairey - 211)
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service with communion
- 4:00p First Steps in Music (Class 1)
- 4:30 First Steps in Music (Class 2)
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 Women of Westminster Board Meeting
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
Middler Choir Rehearsal

Monday, March 10

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 11

- 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
- 2:00 Circle 3 Meeting
- 6:00 Men of Westminster Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 12

Scotland Pilgrimage

- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 6:00 WestConnect (Evans - Family Lounge)
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 13

Scotland Pilgrimage

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

Friday, March 14

Weekday School Spring Break

Scotland Pilgrimage

Sunday, March 16

Second Sunday in Lent

Scotland Pilgrimage

- 9:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect (Miller - 213)
WestConnect (Reynolds - 312)
WestConnect (Buchanan - 313)
WestConnect (Bloodworth/Fairey - 211)
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service

No Children/Youth Choir Rehearsals

No Youth Group

No Children's Church

the **HARBINGER**
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVII | March 9, 2025 | No. 48

From the Pews, Blake Hoffman

I'd like to take a moment to offer an appreciation post on this Harbinger cover for the efforts of the Westminster Library. Over the past year, I have become more aware of just how richly blessed we are in this congregation. We have a wonderful staff, rigorous programming, and plentiful resources to support one's personal growth and discipleship. The time and discernment of volunteers and staff leadership provide our congregation with access to over 4,000 resources to satisfy our Presbyterian thirst for knowledge. It can be easy to take this robust collection, and those individuals behind-the-scenes, for granted.

As recommended by the Westminster library, I recently read theologian Debie Thomas', *A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity*. Her writing explores a whole host of topics in a search for the Biblical faith large enough for our toughest questions and realities. I highly recommend this book to you all. Pastor Thomas' writing came to mind while reading today's scripture of Jesus and his disciples' rejection from the Samaritan village.

After all, how relatable is it that James and John sought comeuppance for a disrespect shown to them? Admittedly, perhaps calling fire down from heaven is a bit extreme. Our text shows just how much they need Jesus' guidance to temper their rage. I find that relatable to our recent past. I can also imagine that they would have benefitted from the writing of Pastor Thomas as she explains: "On our own, we have little capacity to discern what is good and right and holy and true." Like the disciples, we should not be so confident in our own judgement and actions, for when we think we can do it alone, we will be corrected by God.

I'll leave you with a passage of Debie Thomas' book that is inspiring me this week. In writing about Jacob's wrestling with God in Genesis 32, Pastor Thomas states: "This is no dainty, breakable God. This is a God of dust and sweat and blood and tears - a God who is willing to become dirty to lift us out of the dirt." Let us not forget that we belong to a God that is radical enough to rebuke us when we are wrong, to get dirty in order to claim us, and that loves us despite ourselves. Let us be claimed and led, and may this Lenten season be a blessing to you, and the love of God abound.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR A NEW TERM OF ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER!

Classes will meet March 9 and March 16.

Ruth

Led by the Reverend Ron Shive, retired PCUSA pastor
Room 209 and Streaming

Ruth is a “historical novella” of a young Moabite woman living in the time of the judges, around 1100 BCE. While this is a story that inspires Jews as it is read each year in celebration of the Festival of Weeks, it is not a story that many of us know well. Inspiration though awaits all of us as we take time to study and reflect on this short book of 85 verses. Walter Brueggemann says that Ruth is “a woman who acts decisively to create a future for herself in a patriarchal social context where no good future was on offer for her.” The idea of “creating a future where no good future is obvious” might just be worth considering during the difficult days in which we are currently living.

Let Justice Roll Down

led by WPC members, Bill Holt, Gaye Sprague, and Teresa Webster
Room 212

There are many examples of human use of God's creations of air, land, and water that resulted in harm to other humans. Even when we individually did not cause an environmental injustice, what is the Christian response to the results of that injustice and how can we do our best to avoid future such injustice?

Sunday School for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade meet on the 100 hall in the following classrooms:

K-1st Grade	Room 109
2nd-3rd Grade	Movie Room
4th-5th Grade	Room 112

Nursery is available for infants through 4K on the Mezzanine level. During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

MARCH 16:

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for a special Intergenerational Sunday School on March 16 as we welcome Katie Henderson from Camp Fellowship! Katie will be leading us in a fun and creative session where we'll make crafts, explore the theme of peace, and learn about the amazing opportunities at Camp Fellowship. All ages are welcome!

- **Date:** March 16
- **Time:** 10am
- **Location:** Fellowship Hall

Adult Classes will also meet on the 16th (see information above).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR A NEW TERM OF ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER!

Classes will meet March 9 and March 16.

Ruth

Led by the Reverend Ron Shive, retired PCUSA pastor
Room 209 and Streaming

Ruth is a “historical novella” of a young Moabite woman living in the time of the judges, around 1100 BCE. While this is a story that inspires Jews as it is read each year in celebration of the Festival of Weeks, it is not a story that many of us know well. Inspiration though awaits all of us as we take time to study and reflect on this short book of 85 verses. Walter Brueggemann says that Ruth is “a woman who acts decisively to create a future for herself in a patriarchal social context where no good future was on offer for her.” The idea of “creating a future where no good future is obvious” might just be worth considering during the difficult days in which we are currently living.

Let Justice Roll Down

led by WPC members, Bill Holt, Gaye Sprague, and Teresa Webster
Room 212

There are many examples of human use of God's creations of air, land, and water that resulted in harm to other humans. Even when we individually did not cause an environmental injustice, what is the Christian response to the results of that injustice and how can we do our best to avoid future such injustice?

Sunday School for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade meet on the 100 hall in the following classrooms:

K-1st Grade	Room 109
2nd-3rd Grade	Movie Room
4th-5th Grade	Room 112

Nursery is available for infants through 4K on the Mezzanine level. During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

MARCH 16:

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for a special Intergenerational Sunday School on March 16 as we welcome Katie Henderson from Camp Fellowship! Katie will be leading us in a fun and creative session where we'll make crafts, explore the theme of peace, and learn about the amazing opportunities at Camp Fellowship. All ages are welcome!

- **Date:** March 16
- **Time:** 10am
- **Location:** Fellowship Hall

Adult Classes will also meet on the 16th (see information above).

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR A NEW TERM OF ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER!

Classes will meet March 9 and March 16.

Ruth

Led by the Reverend Ron Shive, retired PCUSA pastor
Room 209 and Streaming

Ruth is a “historical novella” of a young Moabite woman living in the time of the judges, around 1100 BCE. While this is a story that inspires Jews as it is read each year in celebration of the Festival of Weeks, it is not a story that many of us know well. Inspiration though awaits all of us as we take time to study and reflect on this short book of 85 verses. Walter Brueggemann says that Ruth is “a woman who acts decisively to create a future for herself in a patriarchal social context where no good future was on offer for her.” The idea of “creating a future where no good future is obvious” might just be worth considering during the difficult days in which we are currently living.

Let Justice Roll Down

led by WPC members, Bill Holt, Gaye Sprague, and Teresa Webster
Room 212

There are many examples of human use of God's creations of air, land, and water that resulted in harm to other humans. Even when we individually did not cause an environmental injustice, what is the Christian response to the results of that injustice and how can we do our best to avoid future such injustice?

Sunday School for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade meet on the 100 hall in the following classrooms:

K-1st Grade	Room 109
2nd-3rd Grade	Movie Room
4th-5th Grade	Room 112

Nursery is available for infants through 4K on the Mezzanine level. During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

MARCH 16:

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for a special Intergenerational Sunday School on March 16 as we welcome Katie Henderson from Camp Fellowship! Katie will be leading us in a fun and creative session where we'll make crafts, explore the theme of peace, and learn about the amazing opportunities at Camp Fellowship. All ages are welcome!

- **Date:** March 16
- **Time:** 10am
- **Location:** Fellowship Hall

Adult Classes will also meet on the 16th (see information above).

Our Vision:

Open Minds

Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

Our Vision:

Open Minds

Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

Our Vision:

Open Minds

Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow