



Second Sunday in Lent
Preparation for Worship

“Most good, honest prayers remind me that I am not in charge, that I cannot fix anything, and that I open myself to being helped...These prayers say, ‘I don’t know what I’m doing. I can’t see where I’m going. I’m getting more lost, more afraid...Help.’”

Anne Lamott

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 *Prelude and Fugue in A Minor* J.S. Bach

* Call to Worship 1 Thessalonians 5, Psalm 92

Leader: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.

People: **For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

People: **For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 645 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" MIT FREUDEN ZART

* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we have failed to trust in your goodness and your grace. Our hearts are never-ending factories of idolatry. We waste time on the trivial. We spend money on our own comfort. We pretend that our lives belong to us, instead of remembering that we belong to you. Forgive us, gracious Lord. Lead us in new paths of righteousness, so that our prayers would be persistent and our courage would be strengthened. Grant us faith that befriends our neighbor, hope that includes our neighbor, and love that increases the people we call our neighbor. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

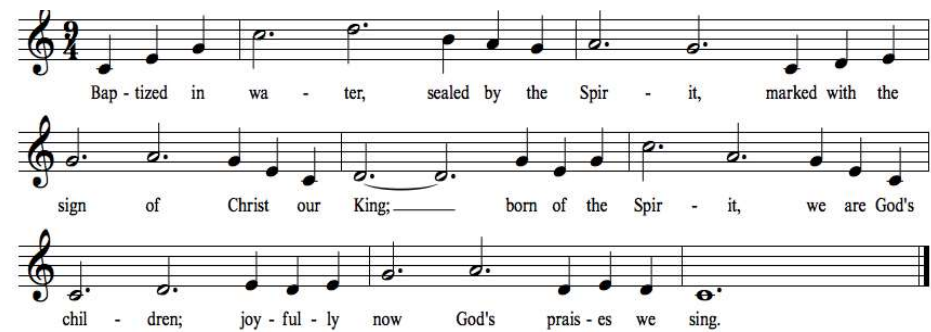
* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581 GLORIA PATRI

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 11:15a

Harvey Jack Parillo

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Luke 11:1-10* p. 845
Second Scripture Lesson, *Luke 18:1-8* p. 853

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

Sermon *"Bothering God"*

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.

Call to Prayer 11:15a, Hymn 469 CHILDREN PRAYING
"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Offering

Offertory 9a *Hear My Cry, O God* Franck
Offertory 11:15a *Psalm 130: Out of the Depths* Ferguson
* Doxology, Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDTH

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 700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" I'M GONNA LIVE

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 546 SICILIAN MARINERS

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

* Postlude *Out of the Depths I Cry to You* Drischner

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Nick Carson, *liturgist*
Nikki Grumbine (11:15a), *sponsor*
Ross Lordo (9a), Sallie White (11:15a), *scripture readers*
Rosemary Hughes (9a), *soloist*
Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)
Jacob Barker, *head usher*
Bill Holt, Stan Pendergrass, Jordan Smith, Claire Gilliland, Roger Gower (9a), *greeters*
Carrie Marguet, Zach Freeman, Bill Holt, Sam White, Mandy Pruitt (11:15a), *greeters*
Manning Dailey (9a), *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

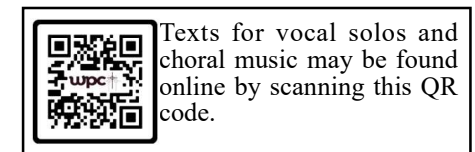
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return 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 *Harvey Jack Parillo*, son of Jack & Kate Parillo.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Charlotte Louise Pile*, to Quintin & Molly Pile, on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

In Memoriam

Sally Timmerman (12/2/1942 – 3/7/2025)

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

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 prayer.

Please be in prayer for the 20+ Westminster pilgrims who are traveling throughout Scotland this week. The group will be in Iona, the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland, as well as Dundee, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. Pray for safe travels and a rich experience of deepening connection to God and one another. The pilgrims will return late in the evening on Sunday, March 23. For those interested in future pilgrimages, stay tuned to the eNews and Harbinger for announcements about our 2026 Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Washington D.C. and an international Footsteps of Paul trip in 2027.

**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!

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.

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 emilydlordo@gmail.com.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Witness and Service has donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support disaster relief for the Californian Wildfires and humanitarian efforts to assist refugees from Ukraine. If you would like to join this effort, you can do so through Westminster. Please note in your giving that your designation is for wildfire response or refugee assistance in Ukraine.

**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).

THE HARBINGER

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
March 16-23, 2025**

Sunday, March 16
Second Sunday in Lent
Scotland Pilgrimage
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
Intergenerational Sunday School Class
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service

No Children's Church
No Children/Youth Choir Rehearsals
No Youth Group

Monday, March 17
Weekday School Spring Break
Scotland Pilgrimage
7:00p Theology Reading Group Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 18
Weekday School Spring Break
Scotland Pilgrimage
12:00p AI-Anon Meeting
Wednesday, March 19
Weekday School Spring Break
Scotland Pilgrimage
12:00p Luncheon Group Meeting
6:00 WestConnect (Evans - Family Lounge)
No It's Elementary
No Children's Choir Rehearsals
No Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 20
Weekday School Spring Break
Scotland Pilgrimage
10:00a Bible Study
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, March 21
Weekday School Spring Break
Scotland Pilgrimage

Sunday, March 23
Third Sunday in Lent
Scotland Pilgrimage
9:00a Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School
WestConnect [Buchanan - Room 313]
WestConnect [Stevenson - Room 213]
10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
11:15 Worship Service
4:00 First Steps in Music - Class 1
4:30 First Steps in Music - Class 2
4:45 Combined Youth Choir Rehearsal
5:30 March Madness Youth Party w/snacks

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Grace Loveless

Faith in Uncertain Times

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus tells the story of a persistent widow who keeps asking a judge for justice. At first, the judge ignores her, but because she never gives up, he finally grants her request. Jesus uses this story to teach that if even an unfair judge will respond to persistence, how much more will God listen to His people who cry out to Him day and night?

This lesson feels especially important today. We live in a world full of uncertainty—wars, political divisions, and economic struggles make it easy to feel discouraged. Many people wonder if justice will ever come or if their prayers even matter. But Jesus reminds us not to lose heart. Like the widow, we are called to be persistent in prayer and faith, trusting that God sees and hears us.

Take, for example, the recent conflicts and suffering we see in the news. Whether it's innocent people caught in war zones or families struggling with financial hardships, it can seem like there is no end in sight. But history has shown that justice, though sometimes slow, does come. Those who continue to seek truth, stand for what is right, and pray with perseverance will see God at work—even in the darkest moments.

Jesus ends this parable with a challenging question: "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). This is a reminder that our role is not just to wait for justice but to actively live in faith. That means praying, helping others, and standing up for what is right, even when it feels like no one is listening.

The world today needs people like the persistent widow—people who refuse to give up, who keep praying, and who continue doing what is right despite the obstacles. God is still at work, and He calls us to remain faithful, trusting that He will bring justice in His perfect timing.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Classes will meet 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).

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Our Vision:

Open Minds

Open Hearts

Our Pillars:

Hospitality

Generosity

Justice

Imagination

Joy

Our Goals:

Connect

Serve

Grow

Our Vision:

Open Minds

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