



Third Sunday of Easter
Preparation for Worship

God of life, there are days when the burdens we carry are heavy on our shoulders and weigh us down...when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, turn our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music...that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to your honor and glory. 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 *Prelude on HYFRYDOL* Hopson
Introit *Alleluia* Mozart

* Call to Worship Psalm 30
Leader: Sing praises to the Lord, O you God's faithful ones.
People: **Give thanks to God's holy name.**
Leader: Weeping may linger for the night.
People: **But joy comes with the morning.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 619 "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" LAUDA ANIMA

* Prayer of Confession
Holy God, remind us anew what it means to be your Easter people. We confess that we have already forgotten your good news of great joy. We have loved our neighbors half-heartedly. We have lived in a world of scarcity instead of sharing our abundance. We have been critical instead of compassionate with those who need the most. We have been quick to judge instead of erring on the side of grace. Forgive us, Lord, and remake us in Christ's image. Help us to see clearly how much grace you have given us. Help us to follow eagerly when your call comes to us. Grant us courage to live simply, to love unconditionally, and to obey you joyfully. We ask it all in Christ's name. 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.

Anthem *I Believe* Miller

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination
First Scripture Lesson, *1 Corinthians 15:1-11* p. 935
Anthem *My God Is a Rock* arr. Parker/Shaw
Gospel Lesson, *Luke 24:36-43* p. 861
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**
Sermon "Ghost Story"

Responding to **God's Word**

Anthem *Wounded Alleluias* Courtney
* 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.

Anthem *Still I Sing Alleluia* Pederson
Offering
Offertory *Alleluia* Thompson
* 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
* Canticle *Festival Alleluia* Chepponis
Please sing the Refrain as invited.



* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude *Highland Cathedral* Callahan

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*
Chancel Bells
Junior and Senior Chorister Choirs
Diana Dailey & Hunter Smith, *directors*
Martha Gower, *Choister Choir pianist*
Youth Choir
Brigham Simon, *soloist*
Lynne Robinson, *Youth Choir pianist*
Chancel Choir
Sanctuary Choir
Craig Price, *soloist*
Rosemary Hughes, *flute*
Andrew Knauer, *percussion*
Rance Bryan, *head usher*
Mary Gentry, Nancy Johnson, Stephen Ridgeway, Pam Evans, Betsy Raines, *greeters*
Elizabeth Workman, Mary Wayne Workman, *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

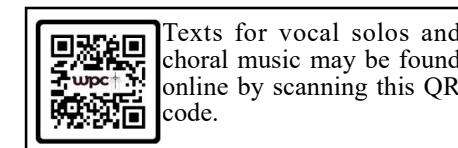
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return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

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a daughter, *Eleanor Page Fiscus*, to Gabe & Lauren Fiscus, on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is worship education for children in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Children leave worship with a pastor to continue worship and age-appropriate exploration and play. Parent volunteers supervise activities and play after a pastor leads the lesson. You can sign up to volunteer with Children's Church here: (<https://signup.com/go/SPYMEVv>). Children's Church will not meet on May 25, due to the holiday.

SPRING BBQ LUNCHEON

On Sunday, May 18, everyone is invited to enjoy good food and fellowship at the spring all-church luncheon. Henry's BBQ and sides will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following 10a worship. \$13/adult; \$9/child; \$45/family max. Reserve your place online.

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 SOCIAL

Tuesday, May 6, 6p
New York Butcher Shop
(2222 Augusta St)

WPC BOOK CLUB

The WPC Book Club will meet in the Library at 6:30p on Tuesday, May 6. Ellen Stevenson will review *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. All are welcome!

WITNESS AND SERVICE CUBA TRIP INTEREST MEETING:

If you are interested in learning more about our Witness and Service Trip to Cuba, an informational meeting will be held after worship at 11:30a on May 11 in the Charter Room. No commitment required. Reach out to Nick Carson with questions or sign up on the website.

SUMMER CHOIR

Would you like to sing in choir but cannot make a full-time commitment? Are you curious about what it would be like to sing in a choir? Are you seeking ways to connect with others at WPC? If so, then Summer Choir is for you! Adults and youth are invited to participate in Summer Choir each Sunday from May 11 – June 29 (except May 25), gathering at 9a each Sunday to rehearse a choral piece to be presented as the offertory at the 10a service. For additional information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

Stuart Taylor will be the guest speaker at the Theology Reading Group gathering on Monday, May 19, at 7p, in the Charter Room. Taylor will be talking about his recent book, *Retracing the Keowee Trail: a Deep Map of the Cherokee Path in the History of the Carolinas*. The book includes material about the Cherokee Nation, Scots Irish Presbyterians, South Carolina colonial history, and much more. Taylor, a retired Presbyterian minister and a Greenville native with upcountry roots going back many generations, has studied this history over many years. It will be an interesting and educational presentation. All are invited to attend this special program.

SOTERIA MEALS

We are looking for women to participate in our monthly dinner and fellowship with the residents of the Soteria Women's House. Help is needed on Monday, June 9 and Monday, July 8. Please email Brooke Culclasure at bculclasure@mac.com if you are interested in helping with dinner and sharing in fellowship.

LOW COUNTRY BOIL - JUNE 8

Kick off the summer with shrimp, and sausage at WPC's Low Country Boil. Share in the fun at Magnetic South Brewery in Judson Mill (701 Easley Bridge Rd. #4155, Greenville, 29611) on Sunday, June 8, from 5-7p. Families are welcome; childcare will not be provided. This event is free to the WPC community, but space is limited. RSVP on WPC's website. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Contact Leigh Stuckey or Nick Carson to sign up online to help.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Witness and Service has donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support disaster relief for the wildfires in California and South Carolina 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.

New Members@WPC

We welcomed the following new members into our fellowship on April 27, 2025:

- Jared & Ashley Aldebol come to us by reaffirmation of faith. They have two children: Woods (9) and Mary Martin (7).
- Jack & Tami Baringer come to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- Kyle & Emma Bolton come to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- Mary Lewis Friesell comes to us by transfer from Lakeside Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.
- Nancy Hruschak comes to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- Campbell Manning comes to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- William McKinney comes to us by transfer from Buncombe Street Methodist. He and his wife, Caroline (a WPC member) have three children: Henry (12), Margaret (9), and Liz (6).
- Ryan & Julie Pittman come to us by transfer from Open Hearts United Methodist Church in Greenville, SC. They have three children: Ansley (11), Andy (9), and Miller (6).
- Perry & Grace Rupert come to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- Will & Krista Smith come to us by reaffirmation of faith.
- Payne & Elizabeth Thomas come to us by transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC. They have two daughters: Amelia (5) and Olivia (3).
- Bray & Hayes Wynn come to us by reaffirmation of faith. They have two sons: Reece (4) and Walker (1).

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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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LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

As we search for a new AV Coordinator, we encourage your spiritual gift of patience with any unintended hiccups with sound or cameras that may occur during this time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 4-11, 2025

Sunday, May 4

Third Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Education Committee Meeting
- 9:40 Weekly Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service -
Church Music Sunday
- 11:00 Reception in Atrium
- WPCYG Parent Fellowship &
Feedback Time

Monday, May 5

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, May 6

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

Wednesday, May 7

- 12:00p Child Protection Training (Zoom)
- 4:00 8th Grade Bible Study

Thursday, May 8

- 10:00a Bible Study
- 11:00 Endowment Committee Meeting
- 12:00p Finance Committee Meeting
(Zoom)
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 9:40 Weekly Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service -
Confirmation Sunday
- 11:00 Reception in Atrium
- 2:15p Cuba Interest Meeting

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXVIII | May 4, 2025 | No. 4

From the Pews, Marlon Hurst

SHADES OF HALLELUJAH

The Hebrew word “Hallelujah” is found most frequently in the Bible in the Book of Psalms – the songbook of the Hebrew people – translated as “Praise the Lord!” Taken at face value, “Hallelujah” is a simple and exuberant expression of praise to God, as in Psalm 150, “Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Hallelujah!” However, the Psalms are a collection of songs that express the whole of the human experience – from unbridled joy and gratitude to despair and grief. It is perhaps in these moments of despondency that the act of giving praise to God is most profound. Consider Psalm 59, written by David as Saul was seeking to destroy him: “Even now they lie in wait for my life; the mighty stir up strife against me.... But I will sing of your might; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been...a refuge in the day of my distress.”

Following the model of the Psalms, the pieces for today’s Music Ministry Sunday reflect the many seasons of our lives and say “Hallelujah,” regardless. Following the handbell prelude on HYFRYDOL (“Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”), the Chorister choirs sing a joyful “Hallelujah” composed by Mozart. The Youth Choir’s piece, *I Believe*, presents a brief poem found etched into a wall in a Concentration Camp that expresses faith in God’s love when the evidence of that love is absent. *My God Is a Rock*, featuring Dr. Craig Price as the “preacher,” is an African-American Spiritual that proclaims God’s sheltering presence from creation to the end of time itself, even when we our lives are being lived in a “weary land.” *Wounded Alleluias* and *Still I Sing Alleluia* were both composed during the COVID pandemic when choirs were silenced for many months. Perhaps the most profound piece of the service is *Alleluia* by Randall Thompson, composed in 1940 as the world was being plunged into the darkness of World War II. Of it, Thompson said, “The best explanation of the emotional quality of that piece comes from understanding that [Alleluia] means ‘the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.’ That kind of resignation to God’s will or your faith somehow helps to comfort.” The service concludes with *Festival Alleluia*, setting words from scripture proclaiming that it is God’s Word which ultimately brings us joy, guides our steps, is the source for truth, and strengthens us to shine like lights in the world. Regardless of which season of life you find yourself in today, may the word on your lips and in your heart be “Hallelujah!”

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

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**Spring
at Westminster**

May 4: Music Sunday

one service at 10a
followed by a reception honoring
Westminster's music program

May 11: Confirmation Sunday

one service at 10a
followed by a reception honoring
the 2025 Class of Confirmands

May 18: Worship & Birthday BBQ

one service at 10a
followed by a bbq luncheon
celebrating WPC's 78th birthday

May 25: Worship followed by donuts

one service at 10a
Mark your calendars,
donuts are back for the summer!

June 8: Worship and Low Country Boil

one service at 10a
Low Country Boil from 5-7p
at Magnetic South Brewery

Our two service schedule will resume following Labor Day.

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