



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Preparation for Worship

O God, we need a hope that is made wise by experience and is undaunted by disappointment. We need an anxiety about the future that shows us new ways to look at new things, but does not unnerve us. As a people, we need to remember that our influence was greatest when our power was weakest. Most of all, we need to turn to thee, O God, and our crucified Lord, for only his humility and his strength can heal and free us. Amen.

William Sloane Coffin

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.
- PreludeCanticle of the Turningarr. Monsell
- \* Call to WorshipPsalm 71

Leader: You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust,  
O Lord, from my youth.  
People: Upon you I have leaned from my birth;  
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.  
Leader: I will hope continually,  
and will praise you yet more and more.  
People: We will tell of your righteous acts,  
of your deeds of salvation all day long,  
though their number is past our knowledge.  
All: Let us worship God!
- \* Hymn 401"Here in This Place"GATHER US IN
- \* Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we know that we love the familiar.  
We return to well-trod roads,  
we are reluctant to change our views,  
we hold tightly to cherished traditions,  
and we gravitate toward trusted friends.  
Forgive us, O Lord,  
for forgetting that your Holy Spirit  
is always up to something new.  
Help us to let go of the long-held grudge.  
Remind us that our wisdom is not like your wisdom.  
Grant us hearts for radical hospitality,  
homes for welcoming the prodigal,  
and faith that your image  
is found in neighbor and stranger alike. Amen.
- \* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.  
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
- \* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581GLORIA 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 BaptismKate Treanor Rubin

Congregational ResponseBaptized in WaterBUNESSAN

Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's

chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Children in K5 – first grade are invited to leave for Children’s Church.

Hearing God’s Word

- Prayer for Illumination
- Gospel Lesson, Matthew 2:13-15p. 784
- Old Testament Lesson, Exodus 2:11-25p. 43
- Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.
- Sermon"In a Foreign Land"

Responding to God’s Word

- \*Affirmation of FaithThe 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
- OffertoryThis Is My Songarr. Ferguson
- \* Doxology, Hymn 606OLD 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 766"The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound"McKee
- \* Charge and Benediction
- \* PostludeI Love to Tell the Storyarr. Shelstra

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, preaching  
Lauren Slingerland, liturgist  
Sam White, sponsor  
Ben Edwards, scripture reader  
Summer Choir  
Mark Britt, trombone  
Rosemary Hughes, flute  
Jacob Barker, head usher  
Coleman Dixon, Elizabeth Timmons, Emily Cole,  
Tiffany Williams, Stan Pendergrass, greeters  
Mary–Frances Reynolds, Virginia Reynolds, acolytes

WORSHIP NOTES


Today’s Prelude is the latest arrangement by Todd Monsell of hymns requested by WPC members. Canticle of the Turning was requested by and is dedicated to Pat Shufeldt. Previous arrangements in the series: Eternal Father, Strong to Save – dedicated to Les Hicken and Bobby Hurt, and Here I Am, Lord – dedicated to Bob Dellert and Charles Moseley.

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.



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 Kate Treanor Rubin, daughter of Matt & Molly Rubin.

FALL SERMON SERIES:  
THE EXODUS STORY:  
FAITH, FEAR, & FREEDOM  
Our fall sermon series will explore the story of the Exodus: God's liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. It's a story about what it means to be heard by God, saved by God, and called into covenant relationship with God. It's a story of fear and courage, of wandering in the wilderness, of God's transcendence and God's imminence, of what it means to live in covenant community with one another. It's the central salvation story of the Old Testament, and one that echoes throughout the New Testament as well. To help you follow along, we will provide scripture passages to read in preparation for the upcoming Sundays. For the next two weeks, the suggested readings are the following:

Aug 24:	Exodus 2:11-25
Aug 31:	Exodus 3:1-15
Sept 7:	Exodus 5:1-6:9

KIDS AND YOUTH VOLUNTEER TRAINING  
AUGUST 24, 11A-12P

The Education Committee is offering a make up training event for anyone volunteering with children or youth during the coming program year, including WPCYG Advisors and Chaperones, Pleasant Valley tutors, WPC Kids (Sunday School, It's Elementary, Nursery, Children's Church). We will meet in Room 213 to discuss safety and details for various ministries. This time together will prepare you to serve the community. The next child protection training will be September 16 at noon by Zoom. Contact Lauren Slingerland for more information.

BEN’S SABBATICAL PROJECT

During his sabbatical, Ben met with 10 Heads of Staff of churches similar in size to Westminster, in order to learn more about how the leadership of each church helps cultivate a culture of generosity at their congregations. Topics included stewardship campaigns, endowments, staff size, “mission giving,” and more. If you would like to find out what Ben learned, he will be giving a report immediately following worship this Sunday, August 24, at 11:15a in Room 209. All are invited.

FOOTHILLS PRESBYTERY HYMN FESTIVAL

Choirs from ten churches in the Foothills Presbytery, including WPC, will take part in a Hymn Festival titled “This Is My Song” at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Greenville this Sunday, August 24, 4:30p. The Fest will feature a mass choir of 100+ singers, a brass quartet, and lots of congregational singing. The event is open to all!

UNITED MINISTRIES

United Ministries is in need of canned food to restock their food pantry. They are requesting: canned fruit, peas, green beans, pasta, beef stew, canned chicken, rice, tuna, jelly, Ramen Noodles, Saltines, and oatmeal. If you would like to donate, please drop off cans in the United Ministries Donations Cabinet located in the Friendship Court.

SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir returns to service in August. Sunday rehearsals will be held weekly at 9a in the choir room. This is a low-key, low-commitment way to participate in the choir. Adults and youth are invited to join in! For additional information, contact Marlon Hurst.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, September 15, at 7p. Lucy Stewart will lead the discussion of *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, by Mariann Edgar Budde, the bishop and spiritual leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the Washington National Cathedral. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

SANCTUARY CHOIR

The Sanctuary Choir is the primary, weekly adult vocal choir at WPC, singing weekly at the 11:15a service from September through May. The SC also leads the congregation in the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols and on Music Ministry Sunday in May. This fall, the SC will be preparing a choral/orchestral work to be presented in early November. Rehearsals are held in the Choir Room each Wednesday from 7-8:30p. Participation is open to all adults and interested high school students. Auditions are not required. Please contact Marlon Hurst for additional information.

CHORISTER CHOIR REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Junior (grades 1-2) and Senior (grades 3-5) Chorister Choir. Choristers meet weekly on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15p. Under the direction of Hunter Smith and Diana Dailey, Chorister Choir singers learn the fundamentals of beautiful singing, hymns of the faith, and about Reformed worship practice. Rehearsals begin September 3. Visit the WPC Web site to register!

ACOLYTE TRAINING

An acolyte training session for children in 3rd-5th grade will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11:15a worship service on Sunday, September 7. The meeting will last about 15 minutes. Children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For additional information, please contact Hunter Smith (hsmith@wpc-online.org).



SOTERIA WOMEN’S HOUSE

We are looking for women interested in participating in our monthly dinner and fellowship nights with the residents of the Soteria Women’s House. Our next date is Monday, September 8. Please email Brooke Culclasure (bculclasure@mac.com) if you are interested in helping with dinner and sharing in fellowship!

**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**  
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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 24-31, 2025

Sunday, August 24

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

*WPCYG at Look Up Lodge*

9:00a	Summer Choir Rehearsal
9:40	Weekly Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Fellowship with donuts
11:15	Faith Formation Volunteer Training Sabbatical Review with Ben Dorr
4:30p	Hymn Festival at John Knox Presbyterian Church

Monday, August 25

5:30p	Community Needs Task Force Meeting
7:00	Monday Game Night
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 26

12:00p	Al-Anon Meeting Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
5:00	Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 27

9:30a	Weekday Chapel
5:30p	Men of Westminster to Greenville Drive Game
7:00	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 28

10:00a	Bible Study
4:30p	Stewardship Task Force Meeting
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, August 31

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

**NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

9:40a	Weekly Session Meeting
10:00	Worship Service
11:00	Fellowship with donuts
11:15	Rise Against Hunger Event

Fall Schedule returns  
on Sunday, September 14.  
We will resume worship services  
at 9a and 11:15a  
with Sunday School at 10a.

the  
**HARBINGER**  
*open minds open hearts*

VOLUME LXXVIII | August 24, 2025 | No. 20

*From the Pews, Mary Frances Knapp*

It’s that time of year again! A new start to school, church life, and activities. As our family ended summer and prepared for the upcoming year ahead, I always like to give ourselves a fresh start. New school supplies, new goals, and new preparation for the year to come. This year, I gave my kids a book called “The Girl Who Never Makes Mistakes.” It is the story of Beatrice, the girl who has never ONCE made a mistake. From the outside, she’s a celebrity in her town. But on the inside, she finds herself missing out on things because she’s scared that she’ll mess up. The story follows her through a typical day until-as you might imagine-Beatrice makes a mistake! And guess what?!? Beatrice turns out just fine...likely even better for it! The idea of perfectionism is something that many of us struggle with. Beatrice’s story was an important reminder for all of us heading into a new school year that it’s ok to make mistakes! We are human, and we are flawed. We don’t have to be perfect in everything we do. Most of our greatest learning lessons come not from our successes, but from our failures.

These lessons of mistakes and failure are not new. Our Old Testament reading in Exodus tells the story of Moses and his trials. Moses, seeing an Egyptian man beat a fellow Hebrew, takes it upon himself to murder the man committing the crime. Even though he felt justified in his actions, it was still a terrible sin. When it is discovered that his crimes were known, Moses must flee from Egypt. I can imagine that Moses felt such failure and was at an ultimate low point. Yet, God still had big plans for Moses. He didn’t know it yet, but God would use him in magnificent ways. Even though he had sinned, and even though he is imperfect, he will still fulfill God’s purpose for him.

Haven’t we all, at some point, felt those same feelings Moses must have of shame and disappointment? Our moments of mistake and vulnerability are when we need God the most. They are also the moments when we are best able to receive God into our hearts and lives. It is when we need God the most, that he is best able to work through us in his divine purpose. We don’t receive God’s love and fulfillment because we are perfect. Conversely, God pours into us and uses us because we are imperfect.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR KICK-OFF SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 7

9a Breakfast  
10a Sunday School  
11:15a Worship

Join us as we kick off the program year, for our annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, September 7, sponsored by the Men of Westminster! Come enjoy delicious pancakes and learn about the many ways to get involved in the ministry of WPC at our Ministry Fair. Breakfast begins at 9a, followed by Sunday School at 10a and Worship at 11:15a. Sign up on the church website at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/church-wide-breakfast>. Cost is \$10/person, with \$40 max per family. Children 2 and younger are free. Proceeds from the breakfast will go to support the Women of Westminster Scholarship Fund. If you would like to volunteer to help with this breakfast, please contact the church office.

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WESTCONNECT SIGN UPS ARE OPEN

WestConnect is a small group ministry of WPC - groups gather for 6-week sessions of bible study, fellowship and prayer. If you are looking to deepen your understanding of scripture, meet new people at WPC, or feel a smaller sense of community, sign up for a WestConnect group. Groups will begin to meet in early October for the fall. If you have questions, reach out to Nick Carson. Sign up on the website.

CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE:  
WASHINGTON DC  
SUMMER 2026

We are excited to announce our next Civil Rights Pilgrimage to Washington DC in the Summer of 2026. Focusing on faith in the civic sphere, we will have an opportunity to worship at the National Cathedral, visit the National Museum of African American History, the Holocaust Museum, DC's major monuments, and the Frederick Douglass National Monument. You'll also have time to explore the city on your own. To learn more and offer feedback, please join us for an informational meeting on September 14th in the Charter Room following worship.

WPCYA KIDS PLAYDATE

WPC Young Adults is sponsoring a playdate for families with kids on Saturday, September 6, at 10a at the Downtown Airport Runway Park. Come gather with other WPC families and enjoy fellowship together! Contact Molly Rubin ([mhjohnson19@outlook.com](mailto:mhjohnson19@outlook.com)) with any questions!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

On August 31, we will be hosting a Rise Against Hunger event following 10a worship at 11:15. We will work together to pack over 25,000 meals. This will bring WPC's lifetime meal packing to over 100,000 meals! Sign up by emailing Nick Carson.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

In response to the floods in Texas and North Carolina this summer, Witness and Service has made a contribution to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance US Flood Response fund. Join our response by making a donation to Westminster designated for PDA, or donate to PDA fund DR000191 directly!

YOUTH CHOIR REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Youth Choir (Middlers, grades 6-8 and High School, grades 9-12). This year, both Middle and High school choirs will rehearse weekly on Sundays from 5-6p. In addition to singing in worship monthly, additional activities are planned, including ice skating and Christmas caroling in December. Rehearsals begin September 7. Visit the WPC Web site to register!

MEN OF WESTMINSTER SERVICE DAY  
WITH REBUILD UPSTATE

On Saturday, October 11, the Men of Westminster are sponsoring a construction service project with Rebuild Upstate. Rebuild is one of our Witness and Service partners that works to repair and improve houses for low-income families in the upstate to preserve affordable housing and ensure families can stay in their homes. Sign up on the website under "Events Registration." Contact Nick Carson with any questions.

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