



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Preparation for Worship

My Lord, why do I storm heaven for answers that are already in my heart? Every grace I need to love folks well has been given me, needing only my response, my willingness to let your grace grow up in me. Jesus, lead me to the grace-filled shores of myself rooted in you for it is there you have made your home. Wash these wayward feet of mine, water the seeds you have planted. O lead me to the beyond within.

Macrina Weiderkher

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 9a "Grant Us Peace" from *Exultate, Jubilate* Mozart

Prelude 11:15a "Adante ma Adagio" from *Concerto in B-flat Major* Mozart

\* Call to Worship Psalm 92

Leader: The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**People: Those who are planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

Leader: The Lord has planted the Word in our hearts that God might harvest forth justice.

God has rooted us in love that we may always flourish, yielding fruit at every age.

**People: It is good to give thanks to the Lord! Let us tell of God's faithfulness in every season, and sing praises for God's loving-kindness.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* Hymn 20 "All Things Bright and Beautiful" ROYAL OAK

\* Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,**

**your face is hidden from us by our sins, and we forget your mercy in the vanity of our hearts; cleanse us from all our unrighteousness, deliver us from the incongruity of proud thoughts, vain desires, and guide us back to who you created us to be.**

**With humble and reverent hearts, may we draw near to you, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your son.**

\* Hymn 578 *Kyrie eleison* ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

**Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.**

\* 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 Virginia Reese Nalley

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

First Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 7:21-29* p. 788

Second Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 7:15-20* p. 788

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Jesus, A Field Guide"

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 "Adante ma Adagio" from *Concerto in B-flat Major* Mozart

Offertory 11:15a "Kyrie" from *Missa Brevis in F-Major* Mozart

\* 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 837 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" SHOWALTER

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude *Tocatta in F-Major* Buxtehude

\*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Lauren Slingerland, *preaching*

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*

Anne Howson (11:15a), *sponsor*

Talitha Allen (9a), Bob Dellert (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Corey Sanders (9a), *guitar*

Judy McKenney (11:15a), *guitar*

Rosemary Hughes, *flute*

Ted Gentry, *bassoon*

Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)

Bill Young (9a), Pam Evans (11:15a), *head ushers*

Amy Hawkins, Ben Bloodworth, Will Edwards,

Amanda Warren, Susan Robbins (9a), *greeters*

Mike Peters, Trey Morrow, Coleman Dixon,

Tiffany Williams, Susan Robbins (11:15a), *greeters*

Isabel Ryan (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.

CHORAL AND VOCAL TEXTS

Choral and vocal texts for worship services may be found via the Harbinger Hub QR code.

Join Us in Welcoming

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Virginia Reese Nalley*, daughter of Weston & Emily Nalley.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTHS

The birth of a son, *David Cooper Bolton*, to Kyle & Emma Bolton, on February 23, 2026.

The births of twin daughters, *Margaret Vance Nelson* and *Eleanora Wallace Nelson*, to Eliot & Ellie Nelson, on Monday, March 9, 2026.

We Remember in Prayer

Ben Alexander and Valerie Slade and their families on the death of their mother, Judy Alexander, on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

**HARBINGER HUB:**  
ALL THE LINKS FROM TODAY'S HARBINGER IN ONE PLACE.

Scan the QR code to explore and engage with this week's bulletin. You'll find links to events, registrations, ministries, and opportunities to grow and connect within Westminster.



**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**CHANCEL BELLS**

Chancel Bells is a part-time handbell choir that rings periodically in worship. The next opportunity to ring will be Sunday, April 26, with rehearsals on Tuesdays, April 7 and 21, from 6-6:45p. Participants must commit to be present for both rehearsals. Prior handbell ringing experience is helpful but not required, but music-reading proficiency is a prerequisite. To take part, please sign up via the Harbinger Hub QR code, by Monday, March 30. For more information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

**GIVING TO WPC**

Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge or give an unpledged gift to Westminster online? Your gift helps our church keep faith with community partners and maintain excellence in our programming. To learn more about online giving, or to make a gift, follow the prompts by using the new Harbinger Hub QR code.

**PICKLEBALL AT WPC**

We're excited to explore the possibility of a pickleball league at WPC. This would be a fun, inclusive get-together for all skill levels. If you'd like to participate, please share your name, contact number, and your skill level: beginner, intermediate, or advance. Text: Tonya Cochran (864-607-1876) or Toni Paylor (864-270-1662). Come for the fun and the fellowship.

**HIKING GROUP**

The Hiking Group will hike at Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve on Wednesday, March 25. Hike Leader: Jim Bickelhaupt (jbickelhaupt@gmail.com).

**MEN OF WESTMINSTER RETREAT AT MONTREAT**

Join us for our annual Men of Westminster Retreat at Montreat on April 24-26. Our theme is "Journeys of Faith" led by our keynote speaker, Rev. Lucas Jones. Lucas currently serves alongside his wife, Gardner, as Executive Directors of Camp Illahee, a Christian Girl's summer camp in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Lucas grew up in Raleigh, graduated from NC State University, and later from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has served as an Associate Pastor for three years in Columbia, SC at Downtown Church. In and beyond ministry, he has spent much of his life teaching and leading folks in the outdoors. Lucas loves biking, hiking, and traveling with his wife and their children, Brooks, Jasper, and Ruthie. Sign up through the Harbinger Hub QR code. Contact Nick Carson with any questions.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 8-12, 2026**  
 for Rising Kindergartners through  
 Rising 5th Graders  
 More information & sign-ups  
 coming soon!

**EASTER LILIES/MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS**

Those desiring to remember loved ones during the Easter season may do so in three ways. Money may be given to purchase a lily for the sanctuary (\$15.00), or a contribution may be made to either the Endowment Fund or the Heritage Lecture Fund. Information and payment may also be submitted by using the new Harbinger Hub QR code. **Deadline is Sunday, March 29.**

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Endowment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / Heritage Lecture \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / # of Lilies x \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March 22-29, 2026**

**Sunday, March 22**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:00 Sunday School  
Confirmation Class #3
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 3:00p Campaign Feasibility Town Hall  
Gathering
- 4:00 First Steps in Music
- 5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsals
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Middlers Youth Group  
Senior High Youth Group

**Monday, March 23**

- 10:00a Staff Meeting
- 4:30p Game Group
- 5:30 Family Feedback Meeting
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

**Tuesday, March 24**

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

**Wednesday, March 25**

- 9:00a Hiking Group
- 9:30 Weekday Chapel
- 2:30p It's Elementary
- 3:30 Cherub Choir
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 26**

- 10:00a Bible Study
- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

**Saturday, March 28**

- 9:00a Session Retreat & Stated Meeting

**Sunday, March 29**

*Palm Sunday*

- 9:00a Worship Service w/communion
- 10:00 Sunday School  
Confirmation Class #4
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service w/communion
- 4:30p First Steps in Music
- 5:00 Youth Choir Rehearsals
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Middlers Youth Group  
Senior High Youth Group

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

**VOLUME LXXVIII | March 22, 2026 | No. 51**

***From the Pews, Brooke Culclasure***

Our scripture today from Matthew focuses on the false prophet. In it, Jesus uses imagery of trees and fruits. Just as a healthy tree produces good fruit, a life rooted in love, humility, and faith will naturally bear fruits such as kindness and compassion. On the other hand, just as a diseased tree produces bad fruit, a life of unfaithfulness and selfishness will naturally bear fruits such as harm and division.

This scripture encourages us to try to be a “healthy tree” and live our lives with love, humility, and faith. The confusing thing is that while a healthy tree often looks healthy on the outside—strong and sturdy, even in the winter when all the leaves are gone—it may actually be diseased. (I am sure, especially post-Helene, that many of us have gotten that unwelcome news and had to get out our checkbooks to pay for taking out a beloved, beautiful tree in our yard.) And sometimes, a tree may look diseased on the outside but actually be healthy...it may just look a little different than usual or maybe it's gone through bad weather or circumstances, especially if us humans decide we need it for something.

Sometimes it's just hard to tell which tree is healthy and which is unhealthy. This makes me think of all the times people, countries, ideas, etc are thought to be bad or “diseased,” but actually turn out to be good, healthy, and fruit bearing. I can think of many examples but one, because it was recent and involves Westminster, is a perfect example for this reflection.

My example is our mission work in Cuba. I think I can speak for all who went to Cuba this past November that the trip incurred all kinds of emotions in all of us—we were grateful to be there, sad at some of what we saw, inspired by the work of the seminary, incredulous at the circumstances of the Cuban people, and scared of picking up a mosquito borne virus that we didn't know existed (that's another story!). But mostly, I think we were in awe of people who are living in a place that most would think of as unhealthy and bearing bad fruit, thanks to a corrupt and selfish government, but seeing quite the opposite in its people. Yes, even in a beautiful Caribbean setting it looks rough through our western eyes with the crumbling infrastructure and outdated Soviet made cars, but the fruits being produced by the people of Cuba are beautiful and bountiful. Fruits in the form of a small seminary providing the only available clean drinking water to the surrounding city; daily chapel services that provide hope and spiritual nurturing; a community garden that feeds hundreds beyond the walls of the seminary; and more.

This certainly is what I think Jesus meant when he used this imagery, hoping to inspire kindness and compassion in all of us.

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We're excited to share that this year's Vacation Bible School, Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs, will be held June 8-12, 2026. It's going to be a meaningful week of fun and learning as we explore what all living things need and how we can have compassion for the living earth.

We're looking for adult and youth volunteers to help with teaching, crafts, games, snacks, and group leadership. Whether you can serve all week or just a few days, your time and gifts will make a lasting impact on our children. Simply fill out the volunteer interest form located in the Harbinger Hub QR code, and someone from the Children's Ministry will be in touch.

Registration for children will open in late March, and the number of children we can welcome will be based on the number of adult volunteers we have in place. Join us in making this year's VBS a joyful and compassion-filled experience for everyone!

**Our Vision:**  
*Open minds open hearts.*

#### **Our Pillars:**

*Hospitality*

*Generosity*

*Justice*

*Imagination*

*Joy*

#### **Our Goals:**

*Connect*

*Serve*

*Grow*

### Adult Sunday School

***Jesus' Final Days and His First:  
Holy Week and the Days after the Resurrection  
Led by Leigh Stuckey  
Room 209 and Streaming***

In preparation for the Easter Season, this lecture-style class will embark on a study of various events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and following his resurrection. Texts include the death of Lazarus, the triumphal entries, Jesus' anointing and Judas's betrayal, the preaching women at the tomb, "doubting" Thomas, and the day at the seashore.

***Discussion Sunday School Class:  
Led by Kathleen Reynolds - 3/22  
Room 211***

Join us each week for a discussion-based Sunday School class to dive into a weekly topic and scripture passage. All are welcome to join us on a journey of faith and fellowship - come every week or come when you can. Topics change every week, and the class is facilitated by rotating members. Past topics include online influencers, the rise of AI, the disappearance of Nancy Guthrie and the Buddhist walk for peace.

***Varieties of Religious Worship:  
An In-Person, Immersive Class exploring and reflecting on various  
worshipping communities in Greenville.  
Led by John MacCarthy***

This course will examine, and experience first-hand, a variety of different worship traditions. Following an introduction to the course on March 15, participants will attend Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Catholic, Muslim, and Baptist services. We will meet for lunch following each service to share our thoughts on each experience. The first class will provide an overview of the denominations to be visited that will include a discussion of both their history and their beliefs. The last class will be a group discussion on what we have learned from our experience. Contact John MacCarthy for the schedule of visits.

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