

Sunday, May 3, 2026 | On Demand on YouTube | 9a & 11:15a



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preparation for Worship

Grant, O holy God, that the ears which hear your voice in music may also hear your promises made anew; that the eyes which have seen your holy love may also behold your blessed hope; that the tongues which sing your praise may also speak your truth with grace; that the feet which have walked the path to the cross may step forward into light; that the souls which gather here today, weary and broken, may be refreshed and restored to newness of life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

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.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Prelude 9a *Fugue in C* Buxtehude

Prelude 11:15a *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* arr. Held

Introit 11:15a "Make a Joyful Noise" from *It's Good* Brumm

* Call to Worship Isaiah 43:18-21

Leader: Thus says the Lord: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

People: I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Leader: I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people.

People: The people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 375 "Shall We Gather at the River" HANSON PLACE arr. Ferguson 11:15a

* Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, you promise a new heaven and a new earth where pain and death are no more. We confess that we often live as though the old ways of fear and conflict are final. We cling to brokenness, ignore your call to justice, and turn our backs on the vision of your holy city. Forgive us, O God. By your Spirit, mend our hearts and make us new, that we may trust in your promises and live as citizens of your coming kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Anthem 11:15a *Praise the Lord, God's Glories Show* Schelat

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Isaiah 65:17-19, 21-22* p. 607

Anthem 11:15a *Come and Go (to that Land)* arr. Boyd

Second Scripture Lesson, *Revelation 21:1-5a, 10-14* p. 1007

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "All Things New"

Responding to **God's Word**

Anthem 11:15a *Then I Saw a New Heaven* Monsell

* 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 *Lead Me, Lord/He Leadeth Me* Larkin

Offertory 11:15a *We Shall Overcome* arr. Trenney

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDETH

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 366 9a "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" HYFRYDOL

Anthem 11:15a *A New Jerusalem Arise* Pederson

Please stand and sing from the bulletin insert when invited.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Highland Cathedral* arr. Callahan

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Anne Propst (9a), Derek Pitman (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Chorister Choirs, Diana Dailey and Hunter Smith, *directors*

Martha Gower, *Chorister Choir accompanist*

Youth Choirs

Lynne Robinson, *Youth Choir accompanist*

Chancel Choir

Sanctuary Choir

Andrew Knauer (11:15a), *percussion*

John Levantino (11:15a), *cello*

Diana Dailey, Lynne Robinson, Melissa Threatt,

Shelden Timmerman (11:15a), *handbells*

Rosemary Hughes (11:15a), *piano/auxiliary percussion*

Ben Bloodworth, Julian Monsell, Zach Warren (11:15a), *youth choir soloists*

Bowen Mullins (11:15a), *narrator*

Todd Monsell, *organ*

Marlon Hurst, *Director of Music*

George Howell (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *head ushers*

Judy O'Neal, Jennifer McDavid, Claire Gilliland,

Tiffany Williams, Nancy Johnson (9a), *greeters*

Josh Riley, Josie Williams, Creighton Likes,

Stephen Ridgeway, Carrie Marguet (11:15a), *greeters*

Berkeley Blumer, Manning Dailey (11:15a), *acolytes*

WORSHIP NOTES

CHORAL AND VOCAL TEXTS

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

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Christopher Gadsden Carsten, V*, to Topper & Madison Carsten, on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

MUSIC SUNDAY, MAY 3 AT 11:15A

This year's Music Sunday, May 3, 11:15a, is titled *A New Jerusalem Arise*. During the service, the Chorister, Youth, Chancel, and Sanctuary choirs will invite the congregation on a journey to that "beautiful city" where God's light and love reign. We hope you will join us as we draw inspiration from a variety of musical styles and timbres in praise of the God who makes all things new.

Then I Saw a New Heaven was composed by Todd Monsell for the Sanctuary Choir for today's service.

WELCOME OUR SUMMER NURSERY CO-DIRECTORS!

This summer, Emma Bolton and Anna Whitmer will be our Summer Nursery Co-Directors. Emma is a WPC member who currently teaches 1st grade in Greenville County. She and her husband, Kyle, have one son, David, who was born in March. Anna is a Furman University senior double major in Business Administration and Politics and International Affairs, graduating in December. Anna has been part of the WPC Kids team since 2024 in the Nursery and It's Elementary. Emma and Anna bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to lead the Nursery this summer and continue to provide a safe and welcoming environment for our young disciples!

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.

SABBATICAL FOR LAUREN SLINGERLAND

Associate Pastor for Children, Lauren Slingerland, will be on Sabbatical May 4-July 27. Sabbatical enables pastors to be renewed through the vital pursuit of continuing education, extended time spent in spiritual formation, and fresh mentoring by respected teachers. Lauren plans to connect with influential mentors, family, and nature during her sabbatical and she looks forward to returning with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will meet Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30p in the church library. A discussion of the book *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Moss will be led by Susan Robbins. All are welcome to attend.

SUMMER CHOIR IS FOR EVERYONE!

After Music Sunday, the Sanctuary Choir transforms into the Summer Choir. Summer Choir is for everyone who would like to give choir a try, cannot commit to a weekly rehearsal during the regular choir season, and simply enjoys singing. All levels of experience and all voice types are welcome. Youth are invited to join, as well! Three optional Wednesday rehearsals are offered from 7-8p on May 6, June 3, and August 5 to rehearse pieces for the Sundays in the month that follow. If you are unable to join for a Wednesday rehearsal, you are still invited to participate on any Sunday that the Summer Choir sings. Look for the schedule in the Harbinger or on the Web site. Contact Marlon Hurst with additional questions or for more information.

WPC BIRTHDAY BBQ LUNCHEON

Join us after worship at 11a on Sunday, May 17, as we celebrate 79 years of WPC, and as we celebrate Lud Weaver as Pastor Emeritus. Henry's BBQ will be catering, and the cost is \$13 per adult, \$9 per child, with a household maximum of \$45. Reserve your place by using the Harbinger Hub QR code.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, May 18, at 7p. Lucy Stewart will lead the discussion of *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr. All are welcome. Join us for an interesting evening.


BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

We are offering free blood pressure screenings the first Sunday of each month. Screenings will take place this Sunday, May 3, in the Friendship Court during each reception following the 9a and 11:15a worship services. If you have any questions or if you are a healthcare professional and would like to help, please contact Tim Miller at tmiller470@gmail.com.

Rescheduled
HERITAGE LECTURE
Dr. Yolanda Pierce
Sunday, August 9
Education Lecture at 9a
Preaching Hour 10a

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.



 [wpcgreenville](https://www.wpcgreenville.org) | [wpc-online.org](https://www.wpc-online.org) | 2310 Augusta St.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 3-10, 2026

Sunday, May 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 9:45 All Choirs Rehearsal Reception
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Church Music Sunday Service
- 12:15p Reception

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Monday, May 4

- 10:00a Staff Meeting
 - 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous
- NO GAME GROUP

Tuesday, May 5

- 12:00p AI-Anon
- Administrative Committee Meeting
- 1:30 Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
- 6:30 Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, May 6

- 4:30p 8th Grade Bible Study
- 7:00 Summer Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 7

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

Sunday, May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Reception
- 10:15 Summer Choir Rehearsal
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Reception

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIX | MAY 3, 2026 | No. 5

From the Loft, Marlon Hurst

Today's *Music Sunday* service takes us on a journey toward a "new Jerusalem". The vision of this city is described in the Book of Revelation in images of grandeur and idealism (echoing language from the prophet Isaiah). It is a place where the inhabitants' lives are illumined by the light of God, the grieving are comforted, the thirsty drink from crystal clear fountains, and all nations and rulers adhere to God's justice of peace and equity. In certain traditions, utopian visions found in scripture are viewed as predictions of a future state of being. However, these words, written during a time of exile and religious persecution, offered a vision of God's reality, contrary to the political and economic conditions of the time. If we rush to our destination by dismissing the message solely as a utopian future vision, we may miss opportunities to discover gifts of community and resurrection along the way.

At the onset of this morning's journey, the Chorister choirs invite us to "make a joyful noise" to God, who gives us life – proclaiming that it was God who created the earth and all that live in it, and that we are charged to "care for all creation" so that "all may live abundantly." In other words, the vision of Revelation has been present with us from the outset. But, of course, we have not always cared for creation, and all do not live abundantly. So, we "Gather at the River," the symbol of God's baptismal mercy and grace, and begin taking steps toward God's everlasting Kingdom, drawn ever forward as we listen for the distant "melody of peace." Following the "Gloria Patri," the Chancel Choir sings of God's grace that flows from heaven to earth and from earth to heaven – joining God's heavenly vision with God's earthly creation.

In *Come and Go to that Land*, the Youth Choir reminds us that our journey is not a solo trek. We travel together towards that "beautiful city," our "Savior's house." Todd Monsell's evocative piece *Then I Saw a New Heaven*, composed for today's service, provides for us a tonal picture of the "new heaven" as a place where multiple harmonies (symbolizing multiple realities and perspectives) coexist in new and unexpected ways. *We Shall Overcome* reminds us that we are joined by saints who came before us and who charted our course towards justice and righteousness, even when that destination was hidden from view. Because of their witness, we are strengthened with the faith that "God will see us through."

Our journey this morning concludes with all choirs and congregation singing *A New Jerusalem Arise*, bringing together God's vision found in Genesis, Isaiah, and Revelation. As we reach the journey's end, we can look back and see that God's mercy and grace have been with us all along and that the vision of a "new Jerusalem" is less of a destination than it is a roadmap for traveling.

Spring at Westminster

May 3: Worship & Music Sunday

two services,
Music Sunday celebrated at 11:15a,
reception following each service

May 10: Confirmation Sunday

two services,
2026 Confirmands celebrated at 11:15a,
reception following each service

May 17: Worship & Birthday BBQ

one service at 10a with Lud Weaver preaching
followed by a bbq luncheon
celebrating WPC's 79th birthday
and honoring Lud, our Pastor Emeritus

May 24 & 31: Worship at 10a followed by donuts

mark your calendars,
donuts are back for the summer!

June 7: Worship at 10a

Low Country Boil from 5-7p
at Double Stamp Brewery

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Vacation Bible School 2026 - Registration is Open!

Registration is now open for this year's Vacation Bible School! Join us June 8-12, 2026, from 9am-12pm for Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs, a week centered on Psalm 104. Throughout the week, children will explore what all living things need to live - shelter, food, water, air, and community - and learn how God calls us to show compassion to one another and care for the living earth. Vacation Bible School is open to children who will be grades K5-5th during the 2026-27 school year. Each day will include Bible stories, crafts, music, and hands-on activities that help kids grow in faith while learning to care for God's creation. Register today on the Harbinger Hub to reserve your child's spot. We look forward to a wonderful week together!

ATTENTION GRADUATES

We would like to list the names of our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or call the church office at 232-2424. The names will be listed in the May 31 Harbinger - deadline for this info is **May 24**.

Name: _____

Graduating from: _____

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A New Jerusalem Arise

Text inspired by Isaiah 65:17-19,
Isaiah 43:19 and Revelation 21:1-27

KYLE PEDERSON
Edited by DAN FORREST

Please sing when directed.

A new Je - ru - sa - lem a - rise,
 A new cre - a - tion come a - live;
 In - to the dawn - ing af - ter dark,
 a - rise! A - rise!
 A new Je - ru - sa - lem a - rise,
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