



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation for Worship

O God, light of the minds that know you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 in Classic Style* Young

* Call to Worship

Leader: All who walk in shadow, come into the light!
People: **God’s Word lights the way for us.**
Leader: God has promised to abide with us.
People: **So let us commit to walk in God’s ways.**
Leader: All who are afflicted, ensnared by the world,
come give praise to God.
People: **God is the joy of our heart,
our sure and certain comfort, come what may!**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" LOBE DEN HERREN

* Prayer of Confession

**God of our ancestors, since the beginning
you have called people to live together in community,
to live together as one family of faith,
and to care for one another as siblings in Christ.
We confess our selfishness overwhelms our generosity.
We turn away from trust,
and regard one another with suspicion and enmity,
we harbor jealousy against our neighbors,
seeing only how they might serve our own interests.
We make idols out of fairness and fail to pursue justice.
We pass down our shortcomings to the next generations.
Forgive us, Lord.
Help us be the community we owe to one another.
Open our hearts to forgive when we’ve been wronged,
make right when we’ve done harm,
and struggle for peace among all people. 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.**

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Psalms 119:105-112* p. 495

Second Scripture Lesson, *Genesis 25:19-34* p. 19

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Sale of a Birthright"

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 *Be Not Afraid* Courtney

* 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 436 "God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us" O QUANTA QUALIA

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* arr. Phillips

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Nick Carson, *preaching*
Mary Kathleen Duncan, *liturgist*
Mandy Pruitt, *scripture reader*
Nancy Smith, *guest organist*
John Sewell, *soloist*
Rosemary Hughes, *flute*
Elizabeth Palmer, *head usher*
Claire Gilliland, Clay Smoak, George Howell,
Jennifer Shurley, Nancy Johnson, *greeters*

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.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

We will not have Children's Church from June 7-July 26. We will begin having Children's Church again on Sunday, August 2.

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.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate
BIRTHS

The birth of a son, *Cooper Wayne Kingrey*, to Bryan & Anna Kingrey, on Saturday, June 27, 2026.

We Remember in Prayer

Bob Dellert and his family on the death of Bob's mother, Katherine Ewing, on Friday, July 3, 2026.

BINGO NIGHT - WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

WPC Kids presents its 3rd annual Bingo Night! On Wednesday, July 29, from 6-7:30p in the Fellowship Hall, all are invited – children, families, and children at heart – to a fun night of games, food, and prizes. A hotdog supper will be served. There is no cost, but please sign up using the Harbinger Hub link before Sunday, July 26.

HERITAGE LECTURE

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

A GENTLE REMINDER

Summer is an opportunity for vacations, the beach, and time with family and friends. But even when we are away, the church remains active with our children and youth ministries going strong, the weekday school running throughout the summer, and numerous outside groups using our facilities. In addition, our mission partners depend on us all year long. If possible, we ask you to keep your giving up to date. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness to God's work at Westminster.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
IT'S ELEMENTARY!

WPC's weekly after-school faith formation program, It's Elementary, begins in September. Each Wednesday afternoon from 2:15-4:30p, children in grades 1st-5th will grow in their faith, deepen their Bible knowledge, experience worship, and participate in witness and service learning. Volunteers are at the heart of It's Elementary! No teaching required - just helping hands, listening ears, and a joy for children. We are in need of volunteers who are able to donate their time each week or every other week to this special program. Sign up to volunteer in the Harbinger Hub.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB

The Westminster Book Club will not meet in July. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 4, (6:30p) and the book reviewed will be *In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss* by Amy Bloom. Kathryn Algary will lead the discussion. All are welcome to attend!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIVING CARDS

We acknowledge that faithful giving may be offered to Westminster Presbyterian Church in a variety of ways. If you give electronically or by other means, please feel free to place an Acknowledgement of Giving card—found in the Ritual of Friendship—in the offering plate as a sign of your worship and offering to God.

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.



ACOLYTE TRAINING – JULY 12

Have you ever wondered what it means to serve as an acolyte? Join us for Acolyte Training this Sunday, July 12th! Training is open to all rising 3rd-5th grade students who would like to learn more about serving in worship. Participants will learn how to carry the cross and torches, assist during worship services, and help lead our congregation with confidence and reverence. Whether you're brand new or would like a refresher, this training is a great opportunity to prepare for the upcoming year.

Sunday, July 12 at 11:15a
(directly following the 10a worship)
WPC Sanctuary

We look forward to serving alongside you! For questions or to sign up, please contact Hunter Smith at hsmith@wpc-online.org.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY TOY DRIVE
FOR THE MAGI MARKET

Help stock the market in our first ever Christmas in July Toy Drive. Shop locally at The Elephant's Trunk and receive a 20% discount on toys for the Magi Market. Stop by the store anytime they are open and ask for Magi Market Shopping Guide for our toy wish list. Unwrapped toys can be brought to the church office or left at the store and we will pick up. We are so grateful for your support getting the Market stocked early! Visit the Harbinger Hub to learn more about the Magi Market.

•**WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER** are invited to Sip & Shop on Wednesday, July 15 at 5:30p.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, July 15, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (lmaryanncox@gmail.com).

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. We will next meet this Saturday, July 25, at 6:30p at the home of Stan & Tricia Pendergrass (25 Norman Pl). Watch your email for more information or check the church's website ("Connect", "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

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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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
July 12-19, 2026		
Sunday, July 12		
<i>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</i>		
9:40a	Weekly Session Meeting	
10:00	Worship Service	
11:00	Donut Reception	
	Montreat Meeting	
11:15	Acolyte Training	
Monday, July 13		
10:00a	Weekly Staff Meeting	
4:30p	Game Group	
8:00	Narcotics Anonymous	
Tuesday, July 14		
12:00p	Al-Anon	
Wednesday, July 15		
12:30p	Luncheon Group	
Thursday, July 16		
8:00p	Narcotics Anonymous	
Sunday, July 19		
<i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i>		
9:40a	Weekly Session Meeting	
10:00	Worship Service	
11:00	Donut Reception	

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXIX | JULY 12, 2026 | No. 15

From the Pews, Rob Morgan

One of my guilty pleasures is occasionally watching a psychological thriller - the type of movie that makes your heart race as the lead character(s) slowly step into that dark room where they heard a strange noise and feel compelled to check it out. The director has taken us on a journey to this crucial point in the story, one where the viewers share similar thoughts:

“Why would you do this?”
“Don’t go in there!”
“Where is the light switch?”

Thankfully our lives aren’t typically the source material for a film genre, but we’re all on a journey that occasionally feels similar to those pivotal movie moments. Sometimes we find ourselves in the dark. What should we do in those situations?

The playwright George Bernard Shaw is generally credited with coining the phrase “shot in the dark,” by now universally understood to mean taking some type of action without having clarity or guidance. But are we truly lacking such information? Surely life isn’t a series of shots in the dark.

The word “darkness” appears three times and “light” appears five times in the first five verses of Genesis. The framework is as simple as life is complex. Darkness and light. As humans we periodically find ourselves in dark places. As Christians we have access to a light that can guide us through these troubling times. Where do we turn when we need help, when the path is unclear? God’s word. Scripture is the path that will guide us out of the darkness.

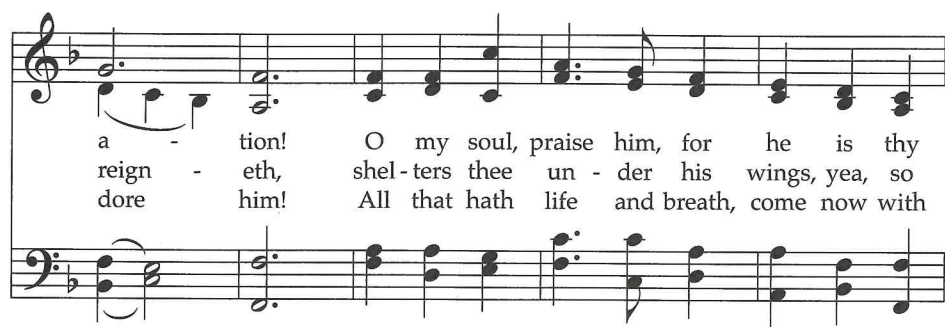
In the span of seven verses in Psalms 119, we see words like “laws,” “decrees,” “statutes,” and “precepts.” Various translations describe “rules,” “commandments,” and “instructions.” This passage does not meddle in subtle hints nor allegorical messages. Our directive is clear as disciples of Christ. Armed with God’s love and steadfast in our adherence to scriptural doctrine, we are blessed with the tools needed to navigate this journey.

May we all be *well versed*, blessed by the everlasting light of our Lord and Savior.

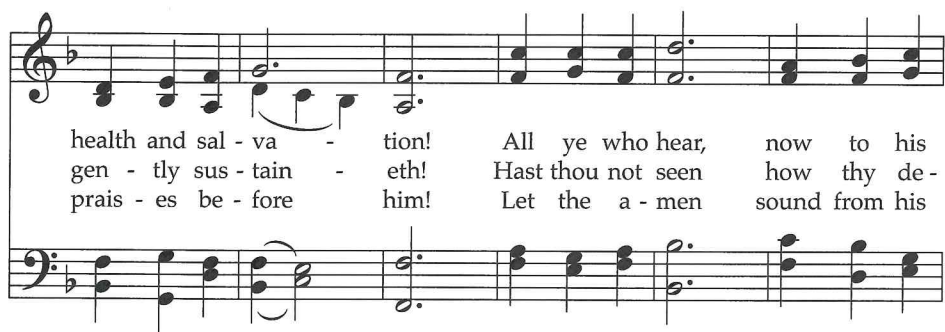
35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty



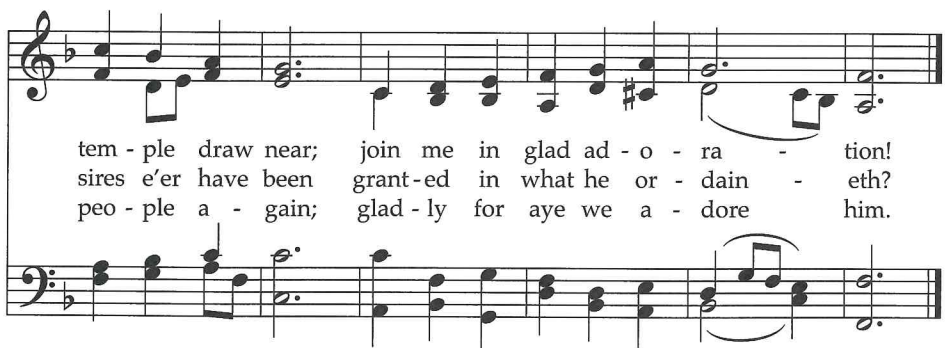
1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

God of Compassion, in Mercy 436

Befriend Us

1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,
 2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
 3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,

giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.
 stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.
 you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?

Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,
 Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
 What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,

pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
 guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
 we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, this text conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown. The confidence of the text is well matched by its sturdy 17th-century French tune.