



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

“In point of fact, it is grace alone that is competent to provide [us] with a truly ethical disturbance; and if grace is to perform this function, it must be treated as covering the whole field of human life, and must be permitted to make that absolute assault upon [us], without which ethics are completely meaningless.”

Karl Barth, *The Epistle to the Romans*

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 *Lead Me, Lord/He Leadeth Me* Larkin

* Call to Worship Psalm 103

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

People: **The steadfast love of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.**

Leader: God has established God’s throne in the heavens,
and God’s kingdom rules over all.

People: **Bless the Lord, all God’s works,
in all places of God’s dominion.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

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

* Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God,
forgive us for our half-hearted faith.**

We make commitments which we fail to keep.

**We turn toward our neighbor in love,
and then we turn away in fear.**

**We give willingly with one hand
while holding our possessions tightly with the other hand.**

**We are a conflicted and stubborn people,
trusting our wisdom instead of your grace.**

Forgive us, Holy One.

Remake us into citizens of your new creation:

**living with gentleness and generosity,
speaking with kindness and compassion,
and loving without reservation or reward.**

We ask it 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.**

The Sacrament of Baptism *Henry David Randolph*
Congregational Response "Baptized in Water" BUNESSAN



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

Hearing **God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:6*

p. 959

Second Scripture Lesson, *Romans 12:1-2, 14-18*

p. 922

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Showing Up"

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 *A Canon of Praise* Mozart

* 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 707 "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" HALL

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 501, stanza 4 "Feed Us, Lord" FEED US

**Lead us, Lord, Lead us, Lord,
nourished here by Christ,
given strength for life.**

Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

* Postlude *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Smith

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Sam White, *sponsor*

Emily Busby, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Summer Choir

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Lindsey Donlan, Carrie Marguet, Trey Morrow,

Nikki Grumbine, Elizabeth Timmons, *greeters*

Sawyer Rentz, *acolyte*

WORSHIP NOTES

FALL SERMON SERIES

"Against the Grain: Paul’s Radical
Message of Love and Hope"

The letters of the Apostle Paul are the earliest documents of the New Testament, written before any of the Gospels. They have shaped Christian theology and thought for centuries, and remain a powerful message of love and hope today. Our fall sermon series will explore Paul’s theology and the ways in which his message is good news, particularly in a time of cultural division, religious decline, and an upcoming election season. The topic this Sunday is showing up.

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.

Join Us in Welcoming
BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Henry David Randolph*, son of Chase & Paige Randolph.

We Remember in Prayer

Bill Taylor on the death of his mother, Sharon Lee Taylor, on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR KICK-OFF SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8.

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

The Men of Westminster will host our annual Kick Off Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. The menu includes pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, and fruit. 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. If you would like to volunteer to help with this breakfast, please contact the church office.

On September 15, we'll resume worship services at 9a and 11:15a with Sunday School at 10a.

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.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MEN OF WESTMINSTER

The Men of Westminster will hold their back from Summer happy hour on Tuesday, August 27, at Southernside Brewery (25 Delano Dr) starting at 5:30p. Please join us for fellowship and an opportunity to meet other men in the church.

WESTCONNECT

WestConnect groups are starting up again this October! WestConnect is a weekly small group ministry gathered around fellowship, study, and prayer. Fill out an interest form (located in the Ritual of Friendship books) to sign up, or contact Nick Carson with any questions.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, September 16, at 7 p. Amos Workman will lead the discussion of *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Join the WPC Young Adults on Sunday, September 8, following the 11:15a worship service for food and fellowship at Topsy Taco (15 Conestee Ave). Questions? Contact Emily Lordo at emilylordo@gmail.com.

PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITIES:

2024 CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 11-14

Travel to Charleston to learn more about the Gullah-Geechee community of South Carolina, visit Mother Emmanuel AMC, worship with a historically Black PCUSA congregation organized during Reconstruction, and visit the newly opened International African American Museum in Charleston.

2025 A PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND MARCH 12-23

Join us on our inaugural international pilgrimage! The 12-day journey provides a deep dive into the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church.

Contact Leigh Stuckey with questions or for more information regarding either, or both, of these pilgrimages.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS

Registration is open via the WPC website for WPC Middle and High School Choirs. Middle School Choir rehearses each Sunday from 6:30-7:15p; High School Choir rehearses each Sunday from 5:15-6p. Marlon Hurst conducts both groups. Contact him for further information.

WPC SANCTUARY CHOIR

The WPC Sanctuary Choir rehearses weekly on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p. The Sanctuary Choir leads in 11a worship from September-May. Adults and high school aged youth are welcome to participate! Contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music, for further information.

PVC HOMEWORK HELPERS NEEDED

Consider joining the wonderful team of homework helpers at Pleasant Valley. You will be paired with an elementary student to work with for the school year on homework and skills. We have availability Monday-Thursday afternoons for 30mins or 1hr time slots. Email Anna Hanor (ahanor@wpc-online.org) for more information and to get plugged into this great group!

BASKETBALL

Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register online for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 13. Registration may be accessed on the church's website (wpc-online.org). WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

A congregational survey from the Connect, Serve, Grow Task Force goes live today! You will receive an email with a link to the survey this afternoon. If you would like to fill out a paper copy of the survey instead, please contact the church office. All Westminster members (confirmed 10th graders and older) are invited to complete a survey! In addition to completing the survey, you may speak with CSG Task Force members at the Kick-Off Breakfast & Ministry Fair on September 8.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [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](#)

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Church Staff

Ben Dorr
Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey
Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan
Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland
Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Nick Carson
Associate Pastor
ncarson@wpc-online.org

Terri Price
Parish Associate
tprice@wpc-online.org

Marlon Hurst
Director of Music
mhurst@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell
Organist
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch
Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Lynn Bennett
Financial Manager
lbennett@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

Aly Friend
Director of Nurseries
alyfriend@wpc-online.org

Steve Phillips
Building Supervisor
sphillips@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 25 - September 1, 2024

Sunday, August 25

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Youth return from Look Up Lodge

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 Donut Fellowship

Men of Westminster

Board Meeting

Monday, August 26

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 27

12:00p Al-Anon Meeting

5:30 Men of Westminster Social

Wednesday, August 28

9:30a Weekday Chapel

7:00p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 29

10:00a Thursday Bible Study

5:00p Health & Safety Committee Meeting

8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, September 1

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:40a Sunday Session Meeting

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 Donut Fellowship

Our Vision:
*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

the HARBINGER

open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Katie Reid

Do you ever feel that tug-of-war stretch of being pulled in two different directions? Attempting to reach beyond human ability to fill various demands of the day. We often do so at a rapid pace, where efficiency, haste, and people-pleasing reign.

When I'm caught dancing my perceived solo act, I misuse God's gifts and flounder through actions that don't glorify God. I've silently lost patience, dwelled on anxious thoughts, or sought anything out of indulgence with an "I deserve it" attitude. In my fatigue and unmet reprieve, truth reveals itself once more: I am not alone. God partners with me.

He grants gifts and skills to be shared compassionately and sometimes vulnerably. He asks us to steward and nurture and grow these gifts through him and not at the churned-and-burned cultural pace of excessiveness.

Perhaps we begin to glorify God by taking pause, living with margin, and maintaining a posture of open palms. Maybe that looks like heeding the call to explore a new volunteer position or sitting a little longer at the dinner table with your children. May our gifts we hone through God's partnership glorify him, paving the way to connection, peace, and hope. Transformation is upon us.

Lord, my hands are opened. Slow my pace. Still my mind. Shine a light. Fill the fractures with your perfection. Less of me. More of you. Amen.