



Second Sunday after Epiphany
Preparation for Worship

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Francis of Assisi

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 and Fugue in F Major* Bach

* Call to Worship Isaiah 55:10-11

Leader: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return until they have watered the earth,

People: **so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth, says the Lord.**

Leader: It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

People: **and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**
All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 301 "Let Us Build a House" TWO OAKS

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,
we know that your ways are not our ways,
and our thoughts are not your thoughts.**

**Yet our idolatry blinds us
to the movement of your Spirit in this world.**

**We worship our wealth,
we are beholden to our schedules,
and we pretend that our lives belong to us.**

**Forgive us, gracious God, and renew a right spirit within us.
Give us a hunger for penitence instead of power.**

**Instead of calculating the cost of loving our neighbor,
move us to compassion and kindness.**

**Let your weakness be our strength,
and let your Son's cross be our guide and goal. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

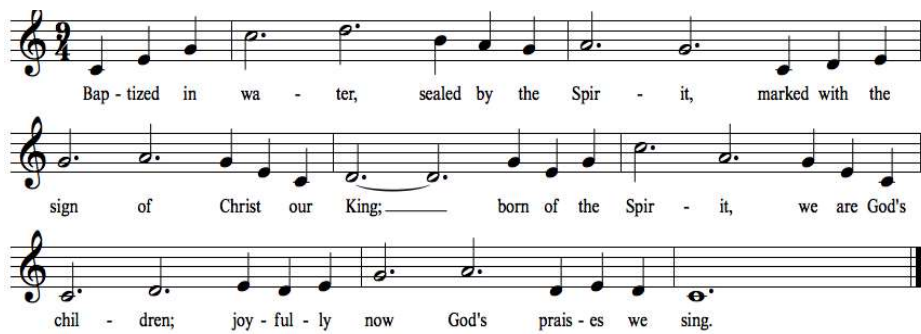
* Gloria Patri, Hymn 581 GLORIA PATRI

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 11:15a

Sinquefield McLain Scales, Jr.

Congregational Response *Baptized in Water* BUNESSAN



Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson, *Isaiah 61:1-4* p. 603

Old Testament Lesson, *Luke 4:14-30* p. 835

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "It Wasn't What They Wanted to Hear"

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.**

Call to Prayer, Hymn 288 11:15a "Spirit of the Living God" LIVING GOD

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 "The Spirit of the Lord" from *Light of the World* A. Sullivan

Offertory 11:15a *He Comes to Us As One Unknown* arr. J. Ferguson

* 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 772 "Live Into Hope" TRURO

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Divertissement* Young

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Leigh Stuckey, *liturgist*

Lindsey Donlan (11:15a), *sponsor*

Melissa Threatt (9a), Rosemary Hughes (11:15a), *scripture readers*

Todd Monsell, *organist/pianist*

Kathryn Knauer (9a), *soloist*

Jacob Barker, *head usher*

Mary Gentry, Roger Gower, Zach Weaver,

Jeff Reynolds, George Howell (9a), *greeters*

Nikki Grumbine, Sam White, Will Edwards,

Mandy Pruitt, Amy Hawkins (11:15a), *greeters*

Miles Threatt (9a), Chandler Murphy (11:15a), *acolytes*

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

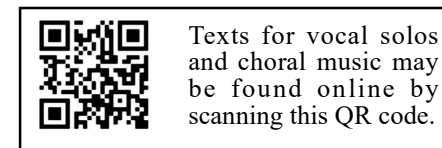
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return 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.



Texts for vocal solos and choral music may be found online by scanning this QR code.

BAPTISM

This morning we welcome into our fellowship *Sinquefield McLain Scales, Jr.* son of McLain & Pearce Scales.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Emerson Franklin Sanders*, to Corey & Laura Sanders on Monday, January 6, 2025.

We Remember in Prayer

Donna Schmieding and her family on the death of Donna's father, Don Turner, on Thursday, January 2, in Greenville.

SPRING SERMON SERIES

The World Turned Upside Down:
Exploring the Gospel of Luke

In some ways, Luke is the most well-known and beloved of the four Gospels. Only in Luke do we hear about shepherds at Christmas, the parables of the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, and the Easter story of the road to Emmaus. Luke is a Gospel with prominent themes of table fellowship, forgiveness, and joy. At the same time, some of the most challenging words and parables of Jesus are found in Luke—teachings that deal with repentance, money, and lost opportunities to live for God. Our sermon series this spring will explore Luke, and the "upside down" kingdom of God that Jesus preaches in this Gospel. Our subject this week is the rejection of Jesus in his hometown.

INTERESTED IN JOINING WESTMINSTER?

Visitors interested in learning more about Westminster and joining the church are invited to attend our New Member Class from 9-10:30a on Sunday, February 2. Those who attend the class are invited to become members and be introduced during the 11:15a worship service that same day or on a future new member Sunday. Childcare is available. Please contact Nick Carson (ncarson@wpc-online.org) at 232-2424 to learn more and RSVP.

HERITAGE LECTURE - 2025

Announcing the 2025 Heritage Lecturer, the Reverend Dr. Hunter Farrell. Join us on Sunday, February 23, to hear Dr. Farrell preach at both 9a and 11:15a. He will also lead the adult Sunday School class. Farrell previously served the PCUSA as Director of World Mission, and is presently the Leader of World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is also the author of *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development*.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet in the Charter Room on Monday, January 20 at 7p. Bill Holt will lead the discussion of *The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty's a Sure Thing*, by Larry Rasmussen. Read the book and join us for an interesting and informative evening. All are welcome.

LIGHTLY SEASONED

Lightly Seasoned is a Westminster fellowship group for those in (or near) their fifties and sixties. Our next gathering will be Saturday, January 25, at 6:30p at the home of Ron & Sherry Tate (207 Camille Ave.). Watch your email for more information or check the church's web site ("Connect" then "Events Registration" tabs) or contact Susan Grier (susan@grierfamily.org) for details. We hope to see you there!

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC

Music is an important way to communicate with young children even before they are able to sing along. First Steps in Music is an opportunity at Westminster that provides important time for parents or grandparents to enjoy music with their child/grandchild. Led by Diana Dailey, the First Steps classes teach simple songs, games, and prayers for two- and three-year olds and adults to experience together. The next class will be offered from 4-4:30p and 4:30-5p beginning on Sunday, February 2. Click here to register or contact Diana Dailey for more information.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, January 21

- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N. Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Contact: Gaye Sprague (gayesprague@cs.com).

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

WPC's Creation Stewardship group will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, January 19, at 9a in Room 211. All who are interested in the care of God's creation are invited to participate.

VOLUNTEER FOR PROJECT HOST

Please consider signing up to volunteer at Project Host in 2025. This is a great opportunity to serve our community with other members of Westminster. Four volunteers are needed every other Tuesday from 9a-1p. During this time, you will prepare a nutritious lunch, serve the patrons, and clean up after lunch service. Please sign up at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration>. Contact Susan Clark at 864-982-4130 or susanhunterclark@gmail.com for more information.




SOTERIA MEALS

WPC is continuing monthly dinners with the women of Soteria. We are on the schedule to bring/share dinner and participate in fellowship the second Monday of each month. Our next dinner is Monday, February 10, and there are future dates available. Please email Brooke Culclasure at bculclasure@mac.com if you can help.

Our Vision:
*Open Minds
Open Hearts*

Our Pillars:
*Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy*

Our Goals:
*Connect
Serve
Grow*

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

THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
January 19-26, 2025

Sunday, January 19

Second Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:00a Worship Service
- Creation Stewardship Meeting
- Library Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:30p Stated Session Meeting

No Children's Church

No WPCYG and Youth Choir Rehearsal

Monday, January 20

Weekday School Closed

Church Office Closed

- 7:00p Theology Reading Group
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 21

- 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
- 6:00 Men of Westminster Board Meeting
- Circle 7
- 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 22

- 2:15p It's Elementary
- 4:30 Junior & Senior Choristers
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 23

- 10:00a Bible Study
- 12:00p Endowment Committee Meeting
- 5:00 Health & Safety Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, January 25

- 6:30p Lightly Seasoned

Sunday, January 26

Third Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:15a Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 Worship Service
- Education Committee Meeting
- 10:00 Sunday School
- Confirmation Class Meeting
- 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
- 11:15 Worship Service
- 12:15p Annual Congregational Meeting
- 2:00 Incoming Elder Training
- 5:00 Middler Youth Group
- 5:15 Senior High Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 Youth Dinner
- 6:30 Senior High Youth Group
- Middler Choir Rehearsal

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

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From the Pews, Mike Peters

I imagine this may have happened to a number of us. You attend a high school or college reunion and someone unexpected shows up. In school this person was just a run-of-the-mill guy or gal, certainly not the person voted most likely to succeed. However, at the reunion, they turn out to be incredibly accomplished and perhaps even well-known. How could this be? Who could have predicted it? How do we make sense of it?

It seems this was the reaction of those in the synagogue in Nazareth when Jesus appears. And not only shows up, but proceeds to read the scripture, sit down and teach and most audaciously proclaim that he is the One foretold by the prophet Isaiah – the Messiah. You can imagine them saying to one another, “Isn’t this Joseph and Mary’s boy, the carpenter? Who is he to be making such outrageous claims? But if he is who he says he is, let him give us proof. Jesus, son of Joseph, show us a miracle like those they say you have performed elsewhere. Otherwise, you cannot be who you claim to be and there is no place for you here.”

Does this resonate with us today? Are we in danger of becoming the contemporary Nazarenes? We claim to know Jesus. Some of us may have grown up with Him. One way or the other He may have become comfortably familiar to us. But have we really accepted Him for who he truly is, or are we just going through the motions? Have we really recognized Him as our Lord and Savior – the Messiah? Have we acted as he asked us and loved our neighbors as ourselves – the poor, the captive, the oppressed? Has our familiarity become too comfortable and blinded us to the profound and bold message Christ has proclaimed? He is the Son of God and through Him with God’s grace we are saved from our sins and destined to be with Him forever. Let us always be mindful of this truth. Thanks be to God!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PANCAKE LUNCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
HOSTED BY MEN OF WESTMINSTER

On Sunday, February 2, immediately following the 11:15a service, the Men of Westminster will host a pancake lunch for the congregation in the Fellowship Hall! The menu includes pancakes, bacon, eggs, and fresh fruit. Sign up on the church website at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/#church-life>. Cost is \$10/person, with \$40 max per family. Children 2 and younger are free. Proceeds beyond the cost of the food will go to the Women of Westminster Scholarship Fund. Men of the church - if you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Clay Smoak at gcsmoak3@gmail.com.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 26, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2025 budget, to vote on the 2025 terms of call for the pastoral staff, to elect 13 elders to the Session, and 1 trustee. The nominees for elder are Bill Ballinger, Denise Broderick, Coleman Dixon, Pam Evans, Mary Mac Fairey, Blake Hoffman, Nancy Johnson, Mike Peters, Tim Reed, Stephen Ridgeway, Tony Threatt, Amanda Warren, and Tiffany Williams. The nominee for trustee is Sallie White.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR VBS SUMMER 2025! WAVES OF WONDER - JUNE 9-13

Let waves of wonder wash over you as you get out into God's creation this summer at VBS, June 9-13! Be inspired by the beauty and majesty of what God has made. At Waves of Wonder VBS, children will explore scriptures in which God provides water for plants and animals. They will visit the wilderness and miraculously receive water from a rock. They will take a boat ride with Jesus and weather a wavy storm. They will even imagine a new heaven and a new earth where all are invited to receive life-giving water. Through worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, and active games, children will deepen their understanding of the importance of water and be invited to join God in caring for this precious natural resource. Registration coming soon! Mark your calendar for VBS this summer!

WINTER SUNDAY SCHOOL TERM JANUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 9, 2025

***I Believe in the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting:
A Brief Tour of Heaven and Hell***
Ted Gentry
Room 209 and Streaming

Drawing on scripture, history, theology, and the occasional first-hand account, this course will consider what Presbyterians believe about the afterlife, some of the reasons for those beliefs, and the many questions that remain unanswered.

The Text This Week
Leigh Stuckey
Room 212

Join us for an in-depth exploration of the texts being preached each week. We will explore the Gospel of Luke. The class is lecture-style and will be recorded.

Sunday School for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade meet on the 100 hall in the following classrooms:

K-1st Grade	Room 109
2nd-3rd Grade	Movie Room
4th-5th Grade	Room 112

Nursery is available for infants through 4K on the Mezzanine level. During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

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