



**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Preparation for Worship**

We pray to you, O God, be our helper and protector. Save the afflicted, have mercy on the lowly, raise up the fallen, help the needy, humble the proud, return the lost, feed the hungry, release the captive, heal the sick, revive the weak, and comfort those in fear. All this we ask for the sake of the world you love, and in the name of the one you sent to save us: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Clement of Rome, 1st century

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.

Minute for Gratitude Ben Edwards

Prelude *Prelude and Fugue in C Major* Bach

* Call to Worship Psalm 148

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens,
 praise God in the heights!
**People: Praise God, all God's angels;
 praise God, all God's host!**
 Leader: Young men and women alike, old and young together!
**People: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 for God's name is exalted.**
All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 321 "The Church's One Foundation" AURELIA

* Prayer of Confession
Almighty God,
we confess that our hearts have been closed to your ways,
your welcome, and your love.
When it comes to your commandments, we like to pick and choose.
We are fine with loving our neighbor
as long as it doesn't disrupt our lifestyle.
We say that Jesus is Lord, but we bow to the gods of power,
possessions, and prestige.
We like the idea of being compassionate,
but we resist carrying our neighbor's cross.
Forgive us, and remake us in Christ's image.
Help us to be a church that looks for the lost,
that places mercy ahead of merit,
and that empties itself for the sake of friend and stranger alike.
We ask it all in Jesus' holy 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.**

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

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, Acts 9:1-9 p. 893

Second Scripture Lesson, Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 p. 885

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *"It Wasn't on the Agenda"*

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

Offering *How Firm a Foundation* arr. Trenney

* 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 295 "Go to the World!" SINE NOMINE

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Laudation* Martin

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Nick Carson, *liturgist*

Ben Edwards, *scripture reader*

Summer Choir

Rosemary Hughes, *guest conductor*

Brad Hawkins, *head usher*

Susan Robbins, Walker Miller, Mary Mac Fairey,

Tony Threatt, Tim Reed, *greeters*

WORSHIP NOTES

Today, the Youth Choir and their adult chaperones are in Charlotte, NC, singing in worship at Caldwell Presbyterian Church (PCUSA).

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

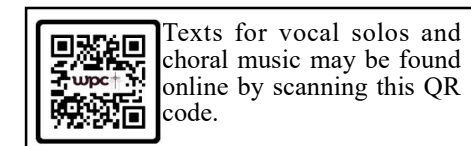
Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the Atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make meaning in faith. Please return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

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate BIRTH

The birth of a son, *Theodore Augustus Barnes*, to Will & McIntyre Barnes, on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

LOW COUNTRY BOIL - JUNE 8

Kick off the summer with shrimp, and sausage at WPC's Low Country Boil. Share in the fun at Magnetic South Brewery in Judson Mill (701 Easley Bridge Rd. #4155, Greenville, 29611) on Sunday, June 8, from 5-7p. Families are welcome; childcare will not be provided. This event is free to the WPC community, but space is limited. RSVP on WPC's website. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Contact Leigh Stuckey or Nick Carson to signup online to help.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is worship education for children in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Children leave worship with a pastor to continue worship and age-appropriate exploration and play. Parent volunteers supervise activities and play after a pastor leads the lesson. You can sign up to volunteer with Children's Church here: (<https://signup.com/go/SPYMEVV>). Children's Church will not meet on May 25, due to the holiday.

ACTS: CHARACTERS AND CONGREGATIONS

The book of Acts was written by the author of Luke, and the themes in both books echo one another. From the story of Pentecost to Paul's missionary travels, Acts narrates the characters, conflicts, and congregations of the earliest Christian community. Following the success of our Luke series, we will, this summer, preach through the book of Acts, meeting new characters and exploring Paul's journeys, overhearing conflicts around inclusion and ritual, and mapping the lessons that the first church can teach the modern church. This week's theme is call.

SUMMER CHOIR

Would you like to sing in choir but cannot make a full-time commitment? Are you curious about what it would be like to sing in a choir? Are you seeking ways to connect with others at WPC? If so, then Summer Choir is for you! Adults and youth are invited to participate in Summer Choir each Sunday from May 11 – June 29 (except May 25), gathering at 9a each Sunday to rehearse a choral piece to be presented as the offertory at the 10a service. For additional information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

THEOLOGY READING GROUP

Stuart Taylor will be the guest speaker at the Theology Reading Group gathering on Monday, May 19, at 7p, in the Charter Room. Taylor will be talking about his recent book, *Retracing the Keowee Trail: a Deep Map of the Cherokee Path in the History of the Carolinas*. The book includes material about the Cherokee Nation, Scots Irish Presbyterians, South Carolina colonial history, and much more. Taylor, a retired Presbyterian minister and a Greenville native with upcountry roots going back many generations, has studied this history over many years. It will be an interesting and educational presentation. All are invited to attend this special program.

LUNCHEON GROUP

The Luncheon Group will meet Wednesday, May 21, at 12:30p in Room 212. Leader: Mary Ann Cox (Imaryanncox@gmail.com).

SOTERIA MEALS

We are looking for women to participate in our monthly dinner and fellowship with the residents of the Soteria Women's House. Help is needed on Monday, June 9 and Monday, July 8. Please email Brooke Culclasure at bculclasure@mac.com if you are interested in helping with dinner and sharing in fellowship.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Get ready for a week of fun, faith, and adventure as we explore the "Waves of Wonder" in God's creation through exciting lessons, creative crafts, games, and more! VBS is the perfect place for kids to grow closer to God and make lasting memories.

- Event Date and Time: June 9-13, 9a-12p
- Ages: Rising K5-5th grade
- Registration Link: Visit the church's website to sign up!

Spaces are limited, and priority will be given to WPC members, so be sure to register early. We can't wait to see your child there as we embark on an unforgettable adventure!

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Witness and Service has donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support disaster relief for the wildfires in California and South Carolina and humanitarian efforts to assist refugees from Ukraine. If you would like to join this effort, you can do so through Westminster. Please note in your giving that your designation is for wildfire response or refugee assistance in Ukraine.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Tuesday, May 20
- Circle 7, at the home of Terri LeGrand (16 N Brookwood Dr) at 6p. Circle Contacts: Gaye Sprague (gayegsprague@cs.com) and Terri LeGrand (terrilegrand@charter.net).

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

As we search for a new AV Coordinator, we encourage your spiritual gift of patience with any unintended hiccups with sound or cameras that may occur during this time.

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THE HARBINGER

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
May 18-25, 2025

Sunday, May 18
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Youth Choir to Charlotte
9:00a Summer Choir Rehearsal
Middler Book Club
9:40 Weekly Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 78th Birthday Celebration BBQ
Lunch in Fellowship Hall
11:45a Stated Session Meeting

Monday, May 19
7:00p Theology Reading Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, May 20
12:00p AI-Anon Meeting
6:00 Circle 7 Meeting

Wednesday, May 21
12:30 Luncheon Group Meeting

Thursday, May 22
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, May 25
Sixth Sunday of Easter
9:00a No Summer Choir today
9:40 Weekly Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Fellowship with donuts

*Ben Dorr is on sabbatical
May 19 - August 10.*

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, Gaye Sprague

*“Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.”
Acts 9:3 (NRSV)*

Have you ever prayed for a sign? When you didn't know which path to take or even what the possible paths were? When you were lost or confused or just not sure what to do? I have. Many times. On the flip side, I sometimes think, "That's a sign!" Of course, what I thought was a sign may have been pure coincidence or maybe even my searching for justification for a choice I already wanted to make. Why can't we have a "light from heaven flashed around" us as Saul did?

This week's scripture is Saul's conversion story. Saul was "breathing threats and murder against the disciples" until his conversion experience along the road to Damascus. But even this miraculous sign had many steps. He was literally stopped in his tracks and blinded by that light from heaven. Then the Lord spoke to him. Then the men who were travelling with him led him to Damascus. Then Ananias, a disciple who might have been on Saul's murder list himself, had to obey the direction to go to Saul to heal Saul's blindness. Then Saul spent several days with the disciples before he began his world-altering ministry.

Maybe we don't see flashing lights, but we do have friends who love us and are ready to travel paths with us. At Westminster, there are many opportunities to connect with fellow members who will walk with us – Women of Westminster, WestConnect, Men of Westminster, adult interest groups, It's Elementary, youth groups, music ministry, service opportunities. We are blessed with pastors and staff, who, like Ananias, deliver messages of God's guidance to us in sermons, Bible study, and Sunday School.

So when we look for a sign from God, let's focus less on the flashing light and more on the many messages all around us that we are receiving all the time. When we're lost and confused, let's take a lesson from Saul and stop in our tracks, let our friends help us, and listen for guidance. We might just get where we need to go faster than waiting for a flashing light.

Spring at Westminster

May 18: Worship & Birthday BBQ
one service at 10a followed by a bbq luncheon
celebrating WPC's 78th birthday

May 25: Worship followed by donuts
one service at 10a
Mark your calendars, donuts are back for the summer!

June 8: Worship and Low Country Boil
one service at 10a
Low Country Boil from 5-7p at Magnetic South Brewery

Our two service schedule will resume following Labor Day.

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 June 1 Harbinger - deadline for this info is **May 25**.

Name: _____

School graduating from: _____