



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation for Worship

O God, full of compassion, I commit and commend myself to you, in whom I am, and live, and know. Be the goal of my pilgrimage, and my rest by the way. Let my soul take refuge from the crowding turmoil of worldly thought beneath the shadow of your wings. Let my heart, this sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God. Amen.

Augustine of Hippo

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 Pavane Fauré

* Call to Worship Psalm 145

Leader: The Lord is good to all,
and God’s compassion is over all that God has made.

People: **All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.**

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

People: **And your dominion endures
throughout all generations.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn 511 "Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven" LLANFAIR

* Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God,
forgive us for the illusions that we love.**

**We imagine that we are wise,
hoping that you will not see our foolish ways.**

**We pretend that we are strong,
working hard to hide our weakness.**

**We pour our energy into status and success,
instead of sacrificing for our neighbors in need.**

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Destroy our duplicity.

Make our hearts more hopeful.

**Recreate us in Christ’s image,
so that our faith would overflow with generosity,
justice, and joy.**

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

**Glorify 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, *Romans 4:16-17* p. 916

Second Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 14:13-21* p. 796

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "We Have Nothing Here"

* Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from
Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being
with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and
for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and
is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again
in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will
have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and
the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through
the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of
the world to come. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory When in Our Music God Is Glorified arr. Ziegenhals

* 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 803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" RESIGNATION

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude Postludium Hesse

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Rosemary Hughes, *scripture reader*

Summer Choir

Rosemary Hughes, *guest Summer Choir conductor*

Bryan Kelley, *head usher*

Tim Reed, Mandy Pruitt, Ragan Kirven,

Christopher Carsten, Tiffany Williams, *greeters*

In Memoriam

Stan Herndon

(8/8/1948 – 7/26/2026)

"I am the resurrection and the life."

– John 11:25

HERITAGE LECTURE

We welcome Dr. Yolanda Pierce next Sunday, August 9, as our Heritage Lecture speaker. A 9a Education Lecture, with nursery provided, will be in Room 209. Dr. Pierce will speak at the 10a worship hour.

DAY OF SERVICE

Mark you calendars for our annual Day of Service, benefitting our Witness and Service Partners on August 29, 8a-12pm. Sign up in the Harbinger Hub. Reach out to Nick Carson with any questions.

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.

CHORAL AND VOCAL TEXTS

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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE FUND

A special offering for the Congregational Care Fund is received on Communion Sundays. This fund is used to assist members of the congregation in a time of financial need. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Congregational Care.

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.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

We are offering free blood pressure screenings once a month. Screenings will take place this Sunday, August 2, in the Friendship Court following the 10a worship service. 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.

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION

Our goal is to provide elements for communion that all are able to consume. It is an act of hospitality mirrored in God’s hospitality inviting us to the table. The bread we are offering at today’s communion is labeled by the manufacturer as gluten, nut, egg, and dairy free, and includes the following ingredients: water, sour dough (rice flour, water), rice starch, cornstarch, sugars (rice syrup, caramelized sugar), modified cellulose, psyllium seed husk (vegetable fibre), sunflower oil, pea protein, yeast, millet flour, citrus fibre, rice flour, quinoa flour, salt, guar gum, corn flour. May Contain: Mustard, Sesame.

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 meet on 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!

CHILDCARE FOR SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS

If you would like to participate in Sanctuary Choir and need childcare to do so, childcare may be made available for the mid-week rehearsals which occur each Wednesday from 7-8:30p, commencing on August 26. If interested, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music by no later than Monday, August 17.

SECOND ANNUAL

FOOTHILLS PRESBYTERY HYMNFEEST

Participants from WPC choirs will participate in the 2nd Annual Foothills Presbytery Hymnfest: “God’s Faithfulness” on Saturday, August 22 at 4p at John Knox Presbyterian in Greenville. Last year’s Hymnfest featured a mass choir of 200 singers participating from the choirs of ten churches within our Presbytery. At this year’s Hymnfest, a newly commissioned choral work, *I Believe in God the Father* by John Moody will be premiered. The service is free and open to the public. An offering will be collected benefitting the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections, a luncheon group for couples and singles, will meet at Bonefish Grill (Woodruff 1515) on Sunday, August 16, at 11:30a. RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, August 14. Newcomers are always welcome!

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.



MEN OF WESTMINSTER GREENVILLE DRIVE SOCIAL

On August 20, the Men of Westminster will have our summer social at the Greenville Drive game. We have reserved a box to watch the game in style! Limited space available, tickets are \$25 each. Sign up on the Harbinger Hub.

IT'S ELEMENTARY REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Member registration is now open for It's Elementary, our afterschool faith-formation program for children in 1st-5th grade! The program meets every Wednesday from 2:30-4:30p and begins September 2. Throughout the year, children will grow in their faith through engaging lessons, activities, and fellowship as we explore the Books of the Bible together. Non-member registration will open August 3. We look forward to another exciting year of learning and growing in God's Word. Be sure to register your child today through the Harbinger Hub!

SUMMER CHOIR RETURNS

Summer Choir returns this Sunday, August 2, and continues throughout the month. All who would like to sing are welcomed to join at 9a on Sundays in August in the Choir Room to rehearse a piece to be presented in the 10a service. There will be a Wednesday rehearsal in the Choir Room on August 5 from 7-8p to preview the pieces for the rest of the month. For additional information, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

MOURNING PAGES

Henry Nouwen wrote, “Writing is a process in which we discover what lives in us.” Join with others in our community as we use writing as a tool to process the losses of our lives. Over the course of four consecutive weeks, we will use poetry, art, scripture, and other prompts to call forth thoughts and feelings. You do not have to be an accomplished writer to participate! Facilitated by Parish Associate Terri Price, the workshop will be a safe space for you to explore your experience of grief as you write and share. Bring your favorite pen and notebook or journal and join us each Thursday in September (Sept. 3-24) at 11:30 in Room 213. Class size is limited to 15 participants, so contact the church office at 864-232-2424 to reserve your spot.

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.

PLEASANT VALLEY AFTERSCHOOL TUTORS

Volunteer signups for Pleasant Valley Afterschool Tutors are open! Tutors are paired with students at Pleasant Valley Connection to help with homework and reading every week throughout the school year. If you are interested in becoming a tutor for the 2026-2027 school year sign up in the Harbinger Hub. Contact Nick Carson with any questions.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2-9, 2026

Sunday, August 2

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Summer Choir Rehearsal
9:40 Weekly Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service w/communion
11:00 Donut Reception

Monday, August 3

10:00a Weekly Staff Meeting
4:30p Game Group
5:00 Personnel Committee Meeting
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, August 4

12:00p Al-Anon
Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
6:30p Book Club

Wednesday, August 5

7:00p Summer Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, August 6

8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, August 9

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00a Summer Choir Rehearsal
Education Hour with Dr. Pierce
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
9:30a Blessing of the Backpacks
9:40 Weekly Session Meeting
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Donut Reception
Sixth Grade Day
Faith Formation Volunteer Training

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, Tim Reed

Today’s scripture account of Jesus feeding the five thousand (Matthew 14:13–21) speaks with surprising relevance to our world today. We live in a time marked by wars, political division, economic uncertainty, natural disasters, and widespread loneliness. News headlines often emphasize scarcity — limited resources, shrinking trust, and growing fear. In this setting, Jesus offers a radically different perspective.

The disciples looked at the crowd and saw an impossible problem. Their practical solution was to send everyone away to fend for themselves. Jesus, however, first saw people in need. Scripture tells us that “he had compassion on them.” Before addressing their hunger, he healed their sick, demonstrating that God’s concern extends to every dimension of human life. Compassion, not convenience, became the starting point for his response.

Jesus then challenged his disciples with the words, “You give them something to eat.” Their immediate focus was on what they lacked: only five loaves and two fish. It is easy for me to respond the same way when confronted with overwhelming challenges. I may believe that my individual effort is too small to matter against problems such as poverty, homelessness, addiction, refugee crises, or fractured communities. Yet Jesus teaches that God often begins his greatest works with ordinary people who willingly offer what little they have.

The miracle also reminds me that gratitude precedes abundance. Before multiplying the food, Jesus gave thanks. In a culture that often emphasizes dissatisfaction and comparison, thanksgiving reorients our hearts to recognize God’s provision and opens us to become channels of his generosity.

Perhaps the most remarkable detail is that everyone ate until they were satisfied, and twelve baskets remained. God’s kingdom is not defined by scarcity but by overflowing grace. While human systems frequently compete over limited resources, Christ demonstrates that generosity can multiply hope, strengthen communities, and inspire others to give.

As Christians navigate today’s complex world, this passage invites us to replace fear with faith, indifference with compassion, and scarcity thinking with generous living. We may not solve every global crisis, but when we place our gifts, talents, and resources into Christ’s hands, he can use them far beyond what we imagine. The miracle of the five thousand reminds us that God still accomplishes extraordinary things through ordinary acts of faithful obedience.