



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation for Worship

“Poverty is an elusive thing, and a paradoxical one. We need always to be thinking and writing about it, for if we are not among its victims its reality fades from us. We must talk about poverty because people insulated by their own comfort lose sight of it.”

Dorothy Day

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* J.S. Bach

* Call to Worship Proverbs 22:2, 31:8–9

Leader: The rich and the poor have this in common:
People: **The Lord is the maker of them all.**
Leader: Speak out for those who cannot speak.
People: **Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. Let us worship God!**
All:

* Hymn 41 "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above" LYONS

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
we confess that we create categories for our neighbors,
and our instinct is to box them in.
We choose to view others as rich or poor, helpful or helpless,
like us or unlike us, friend or foe.
More often than not,
we fail to see the stranger as your beloved child,
and refuse to recognize what all of us hold in common.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Remind us anew of the kingdom to which we belong,
and the Christ we are called to follow.
Make our hearts more hospitable, our hands more generous,
and our faith more courageous,
so that possessions would lose their power over us,
and all would know your love.
In Christ’s name we pray. 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, *Luke 6:20-26* p. 838

Psalter, Hymn 763 THE CRY OF THE POOR

Psalms 82: "The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor"

Please sing the refrain as invited.

Second Scripture Lesson, *Mark 12:41-44* p. 825

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "What About People in Poverty?"

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 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* arr. Dan Forrest

* 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 766 "The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound" McKEE

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 748 "Go with Us, Lord" TALLIS' CANON

Please join the choir in singing - first in unison, then in canon as invited.

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.

* Postlude *Trumpet Tune in A Minor* Lasky

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Nick Carson, *liturgist*

David Golladay, *scripture reader*

Summer Choir

Jeff Reynolds, *head usher*

Tony Threatt, Josie Williams, Creighton Likes,

Stephen Ridgeway, Pam Evans, *greeters*

Everett Matthews, *acolyte*

WORSHIP NOTES

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.

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.

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.

GIVING TO WPC

Did you know that you can fulfill your pledge or give an unpledged gift to Westminster online? Your gift helps our church keep faith with community partners and maintain excellence in our programming. To learn more about online giving, or to make a gift, follow the prompts by using the new Harbinger Hub QR code.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

BIRTHS

The birth of a daughter, *Sloane Renee Arbra*, to Chase & Megan Arbra, on July 23, 2026.

The birth of a son, *Walker McCallum Propp*, to McCallum & Heather Propp, on August 22, 2026.

FALL SERMON SERIES

CHRISTIAN QUESTIONS WITH MORE THAN ONE ANSWER

In our Presbyterian Book of Order, one of the historical theological tenets that grounds us is the concept of “Mutual Forbearance,” which means “there are truths and forms with respect to which [people] of good characters and principles may differ.” (Book of Order, F-3.0105) Our fall sermon series will explore questions with more than one faithful answer, questions you may have asked yourself from time to time, such as “Can War and Christian Faith be Reconciled?”, or “What Is the Relationship Between Science, Miracles, and Faith?”. Our question this Sunday is “What About People in Poverty?”

ALL CHURCH PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for our All Church Pancake Breakfast, provided by the Men of Westminster. Join us for a morning of delicious pancakes and fellowship on September 13 at 10a, as we kick off our fall worship schedule! Worship at 9a and 11:15a with pancakes in between. Sign up on the Harbinger Hub.

BAPTISM CLASS

If you would like to have your child baptized at Westminster, our next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, September 13 at 12:30p. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend, and we will be glad to send you the information for this class.

PROJECT HOST
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

WPC volunteers every other Tuesday at Project Host to provide a meal, feed our neighbors, and address food insecurity. There are plenty of volunteer slots available throughout the fall. If you are interested in volunteering, sign up in the Harbinger Hub or reach out to Nick Carson with any questions!

SING WITH THE SANCTUARY CHOIR!
The Sanctuary Choir rehearses weekly on Wednesdays from 7-8:30p and assists in worship leadership each week at the 11:15a service. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION
Children and youth ages 5K-Grade 12 are invited to register for the church basketball season through Sunday, October 11. Registration may be accessed through the Harbinger Hub. WPC members interested in being a coach or an assistant coach may contact Bryant Puntch (864-915-5686).

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.

STORIES AND STORYTELLERS
IT'S ELEMENTARY

"Let me tell you a story"...these words can grab our interest and pull us close to listen. Do you remember your favorite story? Or the funniest story you ever heard? What about the most powerful story of a moment in your life?
Stories are the foundation of our faith. The Bible is a collection of the incredible stories of God's loving initiative to God's people. Jesus taught in stories and used images that were in the everyday lives of the people. Jesus knew the power of stories! He knew that people hold on to stories and carry them in their hearts. When we share with one another about what God is up to in our lives, we call it our faith story. People create meaning through stories, we learn from stories. And the storytellers who weave them are just as important and powerful!
This year in It's Elementary we'll explore the stories and storytellers of the Bible and our lives. We'll tell stories and create stories of meaning and memory in our fellowship together. We'll learn about the books of the Bible, how the Bible came to be, and some of treasured stories in it. Children will build their faith through games, stories, crafts, time with friends, and meaningful relationships with God and one another.
Registration is open now for everyone on the Harbinger Hub.

Our Vision:
Open minds open hearts.

Our Pillars:
Hospitality
Generosity
Justice
Imagination
Joy

Our Goals:
Connect
Serve
Grow

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