



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Preparation of Worship

“As civilization advances, the sense of wonder declines. Such decline is an alarming symptom of our state of mind. [We] will not perish for want of information, but only for want of appreciation. The beginning of our happiness lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living. What we lack is not a will to believe but a will to wonder.”

Abraham Joshua Heschel

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 "Andantino" from *Silhouetten*, Op. 8 Dvořák
* Call to Worship Psalm 8

Leader: O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: When I look at your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Leader: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

People: O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ELLACOMBE

* Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
we confess that we have fallen short
of being the people you created us to be.
We follow your Son with clenched fists, closed minds,
selfish hearts, and stubborn souls.
We live distracted lives, ignoring your glory,
and domesticating your grace.
Forgive us, Holy One.
Remind us once again
that your wisdom is known in weakness
and your mystery is a gift.
Help us to trust in Christ no matter where he takes us,
so that our lives would reflect his gentleness,
our faith would be free of fear,
and in our helplessness, we would know your holy love.
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.

11:15a Children in K5 - first grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

Hearing God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination
First Scripture Lesson, *Luke 7:1-10* p. 839
Second Scripture Lesson, *Mark 10:46-52* p. 823

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "What About Miracles, Mystery, and Faith?"

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 9a How Great Is the Goodness of God Almighty Greene, Jr.
Offertory 11:15a When the Morning Stars Together Ferguson

* Doxology Hymn 606 OLD HUNDREDTH
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

Recognition of New Members 11:15a

* Hymn 463 "How Firm a Foundation" FOUNDATION

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response 11:15a, Hymn 544 Taizé

"Bless the Lord, My Soul"

Please join the Sanctuary Choir in singing.

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

* Postlude Festive Trumpet Tune German

*All who are able may stand

Leading Worship this Morning

Ben Dorr, *preaching*
Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*
Trey Morrow, *sponsor*
Melissa Threatt (9a), Shelden Timmerman (11:15a), *scripture readers*
Chancel Choir (9a)
Sanctuary Choir (11:15a)
Rosemary Hughes, Hunter Smith (11:15a), *flutes*
Lynne Robinson (11:15a), *handbells*
George Howell (9a), Pam Evans (11:15a), *head ushers*
Creighton Likes, Josh Riley, Nancy Johnson,
Tony Threatt, Claire Gilliland (9a), *greeters*
Judy O’Neal, Mason Donlan, Jennifer Shurley,
Mike Peters, Amanda Warren (11:15a), *greeters*
Manning Dailey (9a), Shirley Bea Pitman (11:15a), *acolytes*

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 11, immediately following the 11:15a worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the 2026 Nominating Committee. The slate proposed by the Session is the following: Stephen Ridgeway (chair), Mary Knight Felt, Nancy Giguere, George Howell, Christa Likes, Sarah Lucas, Butler Mullins, Stan Pendergrass, and Jennifer Shurley.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, September 19, 2026, Grace Beasley and William Cuny were united in marriage in Annapolis, MD.

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. Our question this Sunday is "What About Miracles, Mystery, and Faith?"

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 Harbinger Hub QR code.

SAME WPC.

NEW WEB ADDRESS.

Please update your bookmarks and contact lists! WPC has updated our online domain to wpcgreenville.org. Our email addresses have changed, too. In addition to using the new @wpcgreenville.org domain, many staff email addresses have been simplified to use first names only. The back of the Harbinger now reflects all updated contact information. Our former website automatically redirects to the new domain, and emails sent to old staff addresses will continue to forward to the correct inboxes, creating a smooth transition. Because new email addresses can sometimes look suspicious, we especially want you to know that emails from @wpcgreenville.org are from Westminster. We’re excited for this update and for a web and email presence that more consistently reflects WPC across our communication channels.

CHERUB CHOIR
Cherub Choir, for children K4 and K5, is a joyful place where young children can explore music through singing, movement, rhythm activities, and creative play. Along the way, they will learn simple music skills, build friendships, and discover how music can be a way to praise and worship God. Led by Lynne Robinson (lynne@wpcgreenville.org), Cherub Choir meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons, beginning September 30, from 3:30-4p. Visit the Harbinger Hub to register!

FIRST STEPS
First Steps offers an opportunity for 2-and 3-year-old children to sing, move, listen to, and explore music. This class allows a parent or grandparent the experience of participating 1:1 with their child each week. First Steps meets on Sunday afternoons beginning on October 4 and is directed by Diana Dailey (diana@wpcgreenville.org). Visit the Harbinger Hub to register!

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).

HIKING GROUP
The Hiking Group will hike at North Slope Loop on Thursday, October 1. Hike Leader: Bob Vannoy (bobvannoy47@gmail.com).

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
Join the Women of Westminster for our October Social on Tuesday, October 13, 6p at Tacozzini (1818 Augusta St).

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.



WPC KIDS 4TH & 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIPS
This year, 4th and 5th graders will have the opportunity to explore their faith through field trips and witness and service experiences. These field trips are an optional part of It's Elementary, but they are also open to any 4th or 5th grader who would like to participate. Our hope is that these trips will be a great point of connection for our older elementary kids and even if they can't attend It's Elementary each week, they can join the group for these events. On October 7, children have a choice of a group trip to Conestee Nature Preserve to explore creation or hearing a professional Gullah storyteller, Anita Singleton Prather, also known as "Aunt Pearl Sue." There is no cost and families can sign up through the Harbinger Hub by September 30.

WESTMINSTER BOOK CLUB
The Westminster Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 6, at 6:30p in the church library. Nancy Kier will lead the discussion on *The Engineer's Wife: A Novel of the Brooklyn Bridge* by Tracy Emerson Wood. All are welcome to attend!

CONNECTIONS GROUP
Connections, a luncheon group for singles and couples, will meet at City Range (615 Haywood Rd) on Sunday, October 11, at 12:45p after the 11:15 worship service. Please RSVP to Ruth Johnston (ruthjohnst51@gmail.com) by Friday, October 9. Newcomers are always welcome.

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.

GUATEMALA WITNESS AND SERVICE TRIP
In October 2027, we will partner with Porch de Solomon, a Guatemalan mission organization that hosts construction and medical mission trips in the basin region of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. We will be hosting both a construction and medical mission team. An interest meeting to learn more about the trip will be held in the Charter Room on November 22 at 12:15p following worship. Reach out to Nick Carson with any questions!

wpcgreenville | wpcgreenville.org | 2310 Augusta St.

THE HARBINGER
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
September 27 - October 4, 2026

Sunday, September 27
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00a Worship Service
New Member Class
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Weekly Session Mtg.
11:15 Worship Service
12:15p New Member Reception
12:30 Minute for Stewardship Speaker Training
5:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middlers Youth Group
Senior High Youth Group

Monday, September 28
10:00a Staff Meeting
4:30p Game Group
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 29
12:00p AI-Anon

Wednesday, September 30
2:30p It's Elementary
3:30 Cherub Choir
4:30 Jr & Sr Choristers
7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 1
9:00a Hiking Group
10:00a Thursday Bible Study
8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, October 4
World Communion Sunday
9:00a Worship Service w/communion
10:00 Sunday School
10:55 Weekly Session Mtg.
11:15 Worship Service w/communion
12:30p Capital Campaign Committee Mtg.
4:00 First Steps in Music
4:30 First Steps in Music
5:15 Youth Choir Rehearsal
6:00 Youth Dinner
6:30 Middlers Youth Group
Senior High Youth Group

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, Jeff Reynolds

I’m one of an increasingly small percentage of adults currently living in Greenville that was actually born here. “My people” aren’t from here, mind you, as both of my parents moved to Greenville from out of state when they were children in the sixties, but I consider myself a native Greenvillian, nonetheless.

When I was first learning to drive, Woodruff Road beyond the old Greenville Mall was...pretty much just the two-lane road to Woodruff, with only the Bojangles standing sentinel of the intersection with I-385. The Wal-Mart and surrounding shopping centers didn’t open until around my senior year of high school, with the Five-Forks area developing around the same time, all contributing towards the change from Woodruff Road being just “the road to Woodruff” to being WOODRUFF ROAD. Similarly, after over a decade of planning, the physical work of shrinking Main Street from four lanes to two, planting trees, and widening the sidewalks started the year I was born, but downtown wouldn’t become the “destination” like it is for many years - decades - to come. The Poinsett Hotel was renovated and re-opened as a Westin property and the Camperdown bridge was removed, both while I was in college. And let's not get started on how much the area around Greenville High has changed between my graduation and two of my kids now being students. But through all of this, I still thought of Greenville as the same “small town” where I was born.

It can be hard when you grow up knowing something to be a certain way to understand, much less appreciate, seeing that thing change right before your eyes, even if it is the fulfillment of a vision long in the making. What is obvious to an outside set of eyes may not be as obvious to someone whose eyes have been “trained” to see something a certain way and therefore continues to see it like that.

Take our passage today from Luke. The Roman Centurion wasn’t just an outsider, he would have been someone considered an active occupier/oppressor of the Jewish holy land. I’m not a Bible scholar or historian, but the internet doesn’t offer much about the guy - where he came from, what it was that he saw or heard or experienced about Jesus during his time in the area that led him to the conclusion that not only was Jesus the Messiah, but that his power was such that he could simply speak his will into existence. The Centurion probably wasn’t even raised in an understanding or belief in the Hebrew bible and everything in it that pointed ultimately to Jesus, but he developed a faith in Jesus so strong that he held the belief that Jesus had the same level of dominion over a terminal illness that he, the Centurion, had over his subordinates. This level of belief wasn’t just uncommon to Jesus’s more casual followers of the time - even the disciples, folks that grew up learning the prophesies they were seeing actively fulfilled, struggled to comprehend what was right in front of their eyes. We most famously know of Thomas, the poor guy called out by name, but he is a representation of all who struggled with belief - with faith.

So why do people that find Greenville either through a marketing campaign or a magazine “best of” list, a job assignment or a chance detour off of I-85, come to appreciate all that it has to offer - what it is now and can be in the future - more so than some of us that have grown up here? And more importantly, what gifts, wonders, and opportunities that God provides us each and every day do we fail to appreciate or understand because we continue to look at them with eyes that do not have sufficient faith to truly see?

Join us for a new term of Adult Education!

The Revelation Revisited

September 20 - October 4

Room 209 and Streaming

Facilitated by Ron Shive, *retired Presbyterian minister*

Perhaps you have been frightened at one point in your life by someone's bizarre interpretation of The Revelation of John. Maybe you have found yourself worried that the rapture was going to occur and you would be left behind. It is time to revisit this most often avoided book of the New Testament and realize that John was not trying to frighten us, but rather challenge us to live courageous, faithful, and hopeful lives. This class will be taught by Ron Shive, retired Presbyterian minister.

Discussion Class:

September 20 - December 13 [September 27 facilitated by Heather Dorr]

Room 212

Join us each week for a discussion-based Sunday School class to dive into a weekly topic and scripture passage. All are welcome to join us on a journey of faith and fellowship - come every week or come when you can. Topics change every week, and the class is facilitated by rotating members.

Children on Sunday Mornings

Nursery is available for infant through 4K on the Mezzanine level.

During Nursery, children in 4K explore the Bible story through play.

Starting September 20:

Children Sunday School Class Locations

Shine Curriculum - 5K/1st (Room 109)

2nd/3rd (Movie Room)

4th/5th (Room 112A)

Youth on Sunday Mornings

Youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to meet in the Youth Suite for Sunday School from 10-11a. Facilitated by Claire & Mac Gilliland, this class will study the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum. When numbers dictate, this class will split into separate Middler and Senior High Discussion Groups. We hope you'll join us this year!

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