



Pentecost

Preparation for **Worship**

God of glory, on this day long ago you began your Church, filling the disciples with your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, the community you have created by water and Spirit, may be joined with them to love as Christ loved and live as Christ lived. Send your Spirit to startle us and astound us, so that with steady minds and burning zeal, we would be faithful to your call and give our lives for your truth. Amen.

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 *The Spirit Comes Upon Us* Blake

* Call to Worship Psalm 104

Leader: O Lord, how manifold are your works!
People: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Leader: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

People: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn 279 "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove" ST. AGNES

* Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, forgive us for listening to every voice but your own. We have let our fears triumph over our faith. We have pursued success instead of sacrifice, comfort instead of compassion, and are apathetic about your call to carry our neighbor's cross. Shower us with mercy, O Lord, and send your Holy Spirit to reshape our minds and hearts again. Give us courage to live simply. Give us boldness to love generously. Give us grace to let go of what's unnecessary. We ask it all in Christ's 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

Old Testament Lesson, Ezekiel 37:1-5 p. 704

New Testament Lesson, Acts 2:1-21 p. 885

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "The Amateurs"

Responding to **God's Word**

* 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 and The Lord's Prayer

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

The bread will be held and taken together. The cup will be taken individually.

Music During Communion

At the Lord's Table

Smith

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Shackley

Prayer after Communion

Offering

Offertory

Vaughan Williams/arr. Dietterich

Come Down, O Love Divine

* Doxology 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 310 "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

ST. THOMAS

* Charge and Benediction

* Benediction Response, Hymn 750

GOODNESS IS STRONGER

"Goodness Is Stronger than Evil"

Please join the choir in singing.

* Postlude

Come, Holy Ghost, God, and Lord

Ore

**All who are able may stand*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Ben Dorr, *preaching*

Lauren Slingerland, *liturgist*

Whitney Blum, *scripture reader*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*

Summer Choir, Rosemary Hughes, *guest conductor*

Clay Smoak, *head usher*

Mandy Pruitt, Zach Weaver, Ben Dillard,

Will Edwards, Kathryn Freedman, *greeters*

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.

NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH - MAY 26

Children's Church will not gather on May 26 due to the Memorial Day holiday. Children are encouraged to join their families in worship!

We Remember in Prayer

Erika Grace on the death of her mother, Alice Schreiber, on Friday, May 10, 2024, in Greer.

With Thanksgiving We Celebrate

MARRIAGE

On Saturday, May 11, 2024, *Ginny Reed and Christian Bernard* were united in marriage at Westminster.

WPC ELECTRICAL PROJECT

On May 20, 21, & 22, the church office will be without power due to the onsite electrical project. Our staff will work from home during those days. If you need to reach the front office, call the church's main number, and your call will be forwarded to Michelle. You can still reach staff via email.

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.

PENTECOST OFFERING

This annual offering taken by Presbyterian Churches goes to aid children, youth, and young adults. The money helps children at risk both here and abroad. Plus, a portion of the gifts strengthens ministries nurturing the faith of our young people and developing leaders of tomorrow. Twenty percent of the offering is retained by the local church. We invite you to participate in this vital ministry. Please make checks payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and mark for Pentecost Offering.

SERMON SERIES: THEN AND NOW

During the spring season, our sermon series will explore the question, "What does the early church have to teach us?" We will look at how the early church is described in the New Testament, and explore how those descriptions are related to being God's church in the 21st century. Our topic this Sunday is being an amateur.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Bible Study will not meet during the summer. The group will meet again in August. Watch the Harbinger for the start date.



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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS • Gathering@WPC

8TH GRADE BIBLE STUDY

All 8th graders are invited to join us for a Relationships Bible Study on May 23, from 3:45-4:45p.

LOW COUNTRY BOIL - JUNE 2

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 2, 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 sign up online to help.

THORNWELL SUPPLY DRIVE:

Westminster is a proud supporter of Thornwell. Join our supply drive to support Thornwell's Foster Care Program, which works to provide children in need with safe homes to support trauma recovery and healing while their families cope with crisis. For a list of needed items, visit <https://qrco.de/betsMV> or scan the QR code. You can drop off items at WPC throughout the month of May.



WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLE MEETING

Tuesday, May 21

• Circle 7, at the home of Gaye Sprague (10 Grey St) at 6p. Circle Chair: Josie Williams (jgwilliams1803@gmail.com).

WORSHIP BUDDIES

We are gathering information about families with children with additional support needs who might benefit from having a worship buddy. Worship buddies are adults with backgrounds in supporting the diverse needs of children and they would be available to partner with your child during worship for frequent breaks, varied activities, or an alternate setting. If your child has additional support needs or you're interested in learning more, please contact Lauren Slingerland for more information. <https://wpc-online.org/worship-buddies/>

SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir is a low-commitment way to experience leading worship as a choir member. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, June 5 and July 31 from 7-8:30p to preview the Sunday morning choral anthems for the following several Sundays. For Sundays in May (not May 26), June, and August, the Summer Choir gathers weekly from 9-9:45a in anticipation of the 10a service. Summer Choir is open to adults and high school students. For more information, contact Marlon Hurst, Director of Music.

YOUTH CHOIR TO ATLANTA

Members of the Youth Choir are in Atlanta this weekend for a time of fun and service. This morning, they are singing in worship at Conyers Presbyterian Church. Please keep the youth and their sponsors in your prayers as they travel.

VOLUNTEERING AT PROJECT HOST

Please consider volunteering for Project Host in the upcoming months. The need for volunteers increases during the summer months. Shifts occur twice monthly on Tuesdays from 9a-1p. Prepare and serve a meal at the Project Host soup kitchen while enjoying fellowship with other members of Westminster Presbyterian. Please check the sign up genius for needs in the upcoming months. For questions please contact Susan Clark at susanhunterclark@gmail.com or at 864-982-4130.

SIGNUP LINK:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caea72babf5c43-project#/>

MAY/JUNE WORSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

In May, we moved to our summer schedule, with one worship service at 10a. Not only does this afford us the opportunity to worship together as one congregation during the summer, but it also gives us time for connection and fellowship following worship. Below is our schedule for the rest of May and the first Sunday in June. Taking time to build relationships and make new friends is so important for our life together. We hope you will be able to take part in as many of these gatherings as possible!

- May 19 WPC's Birthday & BBQ Lunch- join us as Westminster celebrates 77 years with a BBQ lunch following worship
- May 26 One Worship Service with donuts following the service
- June 2 One Worship Service with donuts following the service and the annual Low Country Boil (5-7p) at Magnetic South Brewery

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS May 19-26, 2024

Sunday, May 19

Pentecost

- 9:00a Creation Stewardship Meeting
- Library Committee Meeting
- Summer Choir Rehearsal
- 9:40 Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service w/communion
- 11:00 BBQ Lunch
- 12:00p Stated Session Meeting
- 4:00 Youth Choir returns from Atlanta

Monday, May 20

- Church Office Closed due to power project
- 5:30p Personnel Committee Meeting
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, May 21

- Church Office Closed due to power project
- 12:00p Al-Anon Meeting
- 6:00 Circle 7
- Men of Westminster Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 22

Church Office Closed due to power project

Thursday, May 23

- 3:45p 8th Grade Bible Study
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, May 26

Trinity Sunday

- 9:40a Sunday Session Meeting
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 11:00 Donut Fellowship

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

Having lived my whole life in the Carolinas, I'm used to thunderstorms, and there are two that I can specifically recall. One occurred when husband Joel was out of town and our boys were little. The wind and thunder were so loud that the boys and I headed for the basement to wait it out. Another time, fairly recently, the storm included lightning flashing all around and above our house and even striking in our back yard. I'm not that easily scared but must admit to being frightened in those two instances.

Today's scripture (Acts 2:1-21) about Pentecost begins with the disciples gathered after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. They have just elected Matthias to replace Judas as the twelfth disciple. "Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared, and a tongue rested on each of them." Surely, they were at least as frightened as I was during my thunder and lightning experiences, but what happened next to the disciples obviously did not happen to me. They each began speaking in a different language so that the "devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem" could understand.

While most of us have not had such a dramatic experience that allowed us to suddenly speak a language we don't know, how often are we confronted with experiences in which we have trouble communicating? When we let different political opinions get in the way of productive conversations? When we let our comfortable lifestyles blind us to the challenges of those who struggle financially? When we just can't understand someone else's perspective?

The disciples were "filled with the Holy Spirit" and were able to fully communicate with people who would not otherwise have been able to understand the disciples' message. God's guidance is also available to us. Let's do our best to be open to it so that we can better communicate with, relate to, and understand everyone.

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 2 Harbinger - deadline for this info is **May 26**.

Name: _____

School graduating from: _____

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove 279

1 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven - ly Dove,
 2 In vain we tune our for - mal songs;
 3 Dear Lord, and shall we ev - er live
 4 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, heaven - ly Dove,

with all thy quick - ening powers; kin - dle a flame of
 in vain we strive to rise; ho - san - nas lan - guish
 at this poor dy - ing rate? Our love so faint, so
 with all thy quick - ening powers; come, shed a - broad a

sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours.
 on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.
 cold to thee, and thine to us so great!
 Sav - ior's love, and that shall kin - dle ours.

In contrast with many hymns to the Holy Spirit, this one is notable for being in the plural, a valuable reminder that the Holy Spirit has been bestowed on the whole Church, not just on a few individuals. The tune was composed for "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" (no. 629).

work of build - ing; ded - i - cate us to the task.
 faith and ac - tion as we build the church to - day.
 do your bid - ding, see your pur - pose, fill all needs.
 church tri - um - phant, now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord 310

1 I love thy king - dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode,
 2 I love thy church, O God. Her walls be - fore thee stand,
 3 For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers as - cend;
 4 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways:
 5 Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given

the church our blest Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.
 dear as the ap - ple of thine eye, and grav - en on thy hand.
 to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
 her sweet com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
 the bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

One of the oldest American hymn texts in continuous use, this paraphrase of Psalm 137 was created by a president of Yale University while compiling a popular revision of Watts's *Psalms of David*. The arranger of the tune was the clerk of a Presbyterian church in London.

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil 750

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death.

Vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is ours

Oh, vic - tory is ours; vic - tory is

through God who loves us. us.

ours through God who loves us. us.

Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.