

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, August 11, 2019

10:00 a.m.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION FOR THE DAY

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts. Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil. Eternal Power, be our support. Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us, that with all our heart and mind and strength, we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alcuin of Tours, 735-804 C.E.

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PREPARING FOR GOD’S WORD

PRELUDE “Like a River Glorious” arr. Smith

* CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 33*

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Sing to God a new song.

People: **God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

Leader: By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of God’s mouth.

People: **Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 49 LEONI
“The God of Abraham Praise”

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION *adapted from Psalm 51*
Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in each of us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Do not cast us away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit. The sacrifice acceptable to you is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 581)
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.

Rising K5 & 1st Graders are invited to Children’s Church.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 3:21-26 N.T., p. 916

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 2 Samuel 11:14-12:7a O.T., p. 248

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Ben Dorr

“Blind Spots”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from The Confession of 1967*

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love.

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER *Hymn No. 29*

“O God, You Search Me and You Know Me”

O God, you search me and you know me.

All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.

When I walk or lie down you are before me:

ever the maker and keeper of my days.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER *Hymnal page 35, Traditional*

OFFERING

Anthem “Order My Steps” arr. Schrader

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN No. 847 O WALY WALY

“Our Hope, Our Life”

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Hymn No. 740*

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Lead me, guide me, along the way,

For if you lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

* POSTLUDE

**All who are able may stand*

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HEAD USHER: Ross Glidewell

SPONSOR: Susan Jones

GREETERS: Lee Freeman, Ted Gentry

Rita Barker

LITURGIST: Leigh Stuckey

ACOLYTE: Kass Williams

LAY READER: Gayle Key

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

STREAMING

All worship services at Westminster are broadcast via live video streaming. Navigate to the home page of the church website at www.wpc-online.org and click the link “Worship via Live Streaming.”

CHURCH NOTES

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are:

Nancy Smith, organist

Summer Choir

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through four-year kindergarten. Our childcare program provides safe, secure nurseries for our babies and toddlers during worship services. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment to all children.

During worship, children in rising K5–1st grade follow one of our ministers out for Children’s Church in Room 206.

GRAB A NAMETAG

THIS SUNDAY!

We will continue to wear nametags each Sunday. Please find them near entrances and gathering areas and share your name with others. You’ll be glad you did!

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Hank Sanders* and *Millie Thomasson* on the death of their father, Henry Sanders, on Sunday, August 4, 2019, in Spartanburg.

SYMPATHY

We extend sincere sympathy to *Emmy Holt* on the death of her mother, Lula Mae Moravec, on Sunday, August 4, 2019, in Greenville.

IHN AUGUST 18-25

As part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, WPC will be hosting a few Greenville families facing homelessness during the week of **August 18-25**. We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up and take-down, act as hosts, and/or provide dinner to our guests. If you are available to volunteer, please sign up online at <https://bit.ly/2xHznHn>. For more information, contact *Holly Vanderwal* (hollyv04@hotmail.com), *Beth Edwards* (bethholladay73@gmail.com), or *Julia Bellew* (juliabellew@gmail.com). Thank you in advance!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER CHURCH-WIDE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

In town this Labor Day weekend? Join us to pack 15,000 meals for communities worldwide. Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030. On **Sunday, September 1**, they will bring the elements necessary to pack food kits following the **10:00 a.m.** worship service. All ages and stages are invited. We’ll have refreshments. The event should take 1.5 hours. Sign up at <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/rise-against-hunger/>.

LET US PRAY FOR:

Hank Sanders & family

Millie Thomasson & family

Emmy Holt & family

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONNECTIONS GROUP

Connections will meet at Carrabba's Italian Grill (1022 Woodruff Rd), this Sunday, August 11, at 11:45 a.m. All are welcome. Please call or e-mail Edna Ruth Miller (288-8645 or rgvduo@bellsouth.net) if you need information.

**It's Elementary
begins August 28!**

Advanced registration is required.
****We cannot accommodate
walk-ins this year.**

[https://wpc-online.org/
events-registration/
its-elementary-tweens-sign-up](https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/its-elementary-tweens-sign-up)

Deadline to register:
**Monday,
August 12**

THEOLOGY

READING GROUP

The Theology Reading Group will meet Monday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Charter Room. Ellie Hammond will lead the discussion of Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor. Read the book and join us for an interesting evening. All are invited.

MOVIE GROUP

Westminster's Movie Group welcomes anyone who enjoys seeing good movies and having lively discussions. Members attend a movie and then enjoy dinner together to discuss the movie and have social time. Occasionally movies are shown at the church. Our first meeting will be Sunday, August 25. The movie has not been selected yet because the movie schedules are uncertain. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Susan Robbins (jamrobbins@aol.com) to get added to our email list.

SUPPER WITH SEVEN

The Supper with Seven program was a huge success last spring, so it is time to sign up for the fall. Supper with Seven groups will be made up of couples and singles who will get together once in September and once in October with the option of a third get-together in November or December. The meal-sharing opportunities range from a traditional dinner at a member's home to backyard barbecues to meetings at a pizza parlor. It is up to each group to decide.

To sign up, return this form to the church office, or fill out the online form on the church website by navigating to the Supper with Seven page. **The deadline to sign up is Friday, August 16.**

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check one:

_____ I/We would be willing to host a first gathering of seven or so people.

_____ I/We cannot host the first gathering, but would consider a subsequent one.

_____ I/We cannot host but would like to be part of a group.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 11 - 17, 2019

SUNDAY

- 8:45 a.m. Witness & Service Committee Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. Creation Stewardship Group Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:45 a.m. Connections Group Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

- 6:15 p.m. NAMI
- 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon

WEDNESDAY

- 12:00 p.m. Gifts & Gratitude Committee Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. It's Elementary Volunteer Orientation Meeting

THURSDAY

- 8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

BACK TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST
August 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Adults \$7.00 Children (3-11) \$3.00 Children (2 and under) Free

Join us for a great meal at 9:00 a.m. (food lines to open at 8:45 a.m.) to celebrate a new school year and a new church year! The menu for our celebration breakfast will be biscuits and gravy, eggs, grits, sausage, bacon, and fruit. Nursery will be available for children under three. To keep the check-in lines moving, we ask that you sign up and pay online by going to <https://wpc-online.org/events-registration/back-to-school-breakfast/>. Sign-ups end Wednesday, August 14. We look forward to seeing you there!



For most of my adult life I've always taken on the problems and complexities, both subtle and not so, with a "lowest common denominator" or "common-sense" approach. I was raised in part by a brilliant man with a kind heart who had a penchant for the understated. I recall a conversation during my teen years when I asked my father when he planned to replace his very old, very large, Lincoln Town Car which he sensed (correctly so) was a point of embarrassment for his teenage son. His response was simple: "Boy, my personality doesn't ride on four wheels." That was it. I was thirty-seven years old when he passed away and he was just three years into the third car I had ever known him to own.

Now you might be wondering what cars, teenagers, or common sense have to do with scripture from Romans in the Bible. To be honest, I wonder if I am breaking a law or committing a sin by using "cars," "teenagers," and "common sense" in the same sentence...twice mind you. I predict that on Sunday Ben Dorr will deliver an incredibly articulate, enlightening, and even humorous sermon from a theological perspective. I am grateful for his insight and gift of clarity. Furthermore, I am humbled when my thoughts about scripture are printed right there on the cover of the *Harbinger* for all to read...then compared with the oratory of Ben on the same day.

Romans 3:21-26 "But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus."

If I were a modern day disciple I would choose this passage as my closing argument to answer the question "Why Christianity?" With my predilection for using common sense in decision making, I would answer the question with yet another. That would be a simply stated "Why not?" Honestly, what do we have to lose? The human condition, such that it is, is predicated on a life of imperfection and errancy. Simply stated...we all sin. The length of time that we inhabit this earth is minuscule though not insignificant. Eternity compared to our time here...the difference is beyond compare. How do we extend our existence beyond our earthly confines? Faith is the answer. It's that simple. Faith. What do you have to lose?

Mark Pruitt