



# Westminster

Presbyterian Church, PCA

*The Lord's Day, December 31, 2023 A.M.*

*WPC exists to develop in ourselves and others a passion for the glory of God and the preeminence of Christ in all of life and in all the world, as revealed in the infallible, inerrant Word of God alone.*

# The Lord's Day

December 31, 2023 10:15 a.m.

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## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

“Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”  
*(Revelation 19:5)*

### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE #198

### *“Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates”*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee, his chariot is humility,  
his kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

**READING OF SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 15:1-20

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”  
*(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #457**

***“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”***

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God:  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it – prone to leave the God I love:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above.

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH  
THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy \*catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER, MUSIC, & OFFERING**

**SONG**

***“Creation Sings the Father’s Song”***

Creation sings the Father’s song; He calls the sun to wake the dawn  
and run the course of day till ev’ning falls in crimson rays.  
His fingerprints in flakes of snow, His breath upon this spinning globe,  
He charts the eagle’s flight; commands the newborn baby’s cry.

*Hal-le-lu-jah! Let all creation stand and sing,  
“Hal-le-lu-jah!” Fill the earth with songs of worship;  
tell the wonders of creation’s King.*

Creation gazed upon His face; the ageless One in time’s embrace  
unveiled the Father’s plan of reconciling God and man.  
A second Adam walked the earth, whose blameless life would break the curse,  
whose death would set us free to live with Him eternally

*Chorus*

Creation longs for His return, when Christ shall reign upon the earth;  
the bitter wars that rage are birth pains of a coming age.  
When He renews the land and sky, all heav’n will sing and earth reply  
with one resplendent theme: The glories of our God and King!

*Chorus x2*

Fill the earth with songs of worship; tell the wonders of creation’s King.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE READING OF SCRIPTURE  
THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**LUKE 2:1-7  
REV. JOE GRIDER**

**“What If There Was No Christmas?”**

Generally Speaking

Specifically Speaking

For your gift of God the Spirit, pow’r to make our lives anew,  
pledge of life and hope of glory, Savior, we would worship you.  
Crowning gift of resurrection sent from your ascended throne,  
fullness of the very Godhead, come to make your life our own.

He who in creation’s dawning brooded on the lifeless deep,  
still across our nature’s darkness moves to wake our souls from sleep,  
moves to stir, to draw, to quicken, thrusts us through with sense of sin;  
brings to birth and seals and fills us- saving Advocate within.

He, himself the living Author, wakes to life the sacred Word,  
reads with us its holy pages and reveals our risen Lord.  
He it is who works within us, teaching rebel hearts to pray,  
he whose holy intercessions rise for us both night and day.

He, the mighty God, indwells us; his to strengthen, help, empow’r;  
his to overcome the tempter, ours to call in danger’s hour.  
In his strength we dare to battle all the raging hosts of sin,  
and by him alone we conquer foes without and foes within.

Father, grant your Holy Spirit in our hearts may rule today,  
grieved not, quenched not, but unhindered, work in us his sovereign way.  
Fill us with your holy fullness, God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
in us, through us, then, forever, shall your perfect will be done.

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”  
*(Numbers 6:24-26)*

# WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Evening Service Tonight

We encourage you to join us for evening worship at 5:30pm. If you cannot attend in person please join us via our livestream. To access the livestream go to our website [www.wpc-pca.com](http://www.wpc-pca.com) and click on livestream.

## Change That Sticks Course

Make 2024 the year of real, lasting, and God-honoring change in your life and learn how to help others do so too, all with the Word of God. This on-line course is being offered through the Low Country Biblical Counseling Center. Cost is \$25 per month with a one year commitment. For details and to register, go to: <https://www.lcbcc.org/foundations-course>

In addition, Diane Poff is willing to lead a free monthly study group for the students.

Kick off is January 9th, but you can join anytime. If you have any questions, call Diane Poff.

## Volunteers Needed!

Looking for a way to get involved at WPC?

Here are some areas where help is needed:

- **Nursery Volunteer/Tuesday Morning Childcare**

contact Krystina Lyon - [klyon0727@gmail.com](mailto:klyon0727@gmail.com)

- **Morning or Evening Communion Preparation**

contact Keri Sevcik - [wpcpcaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcpcaoffice@gmail.com)

- **Children's Sunday School Teachers**

contact Melissa Giddens - [amg00470@gmail.com](mailto:amg00470@gmail.com)

- **AV Team**

contact Randy Seay - [hrrr223@gmail.com](mailto:hrrr223@gmail.com)

- **Kitchen Volunteer - Organization, Cleaning, Stocking**

contact Keri Sevcik - [wpcpcaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wpcpcaoffice@gmail.com)

## Carpenters Apprentices

Carpenters Apprentices will resume their book study on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at the usual time of 6:00 a.m. at The Breakfast Place. CA will be starting a new book, "Biblical Teaching on the Doctrines of Heaven and Hell" by Edward Donnelly. This would be an excellent time to participate in a new book study/discussion. The group dismisses promptly at 7:00 for those who need to make it to work. Breakfast is optional and is served in the private room as we meet. For further info see Earl Smith or Scotty Robertson.

### For Your Calendar:

**TONIGHT 5:30 p.m.**

Evening Service

**Office Closed**

**January 1**

**Friday, January 5, 9:00 a.m.**

Food Ministry