



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Order of Worship for May 2, 2021

In-Person and Online at 11:00 am

Facebook Live | YouTube | www.wpccharleston.org

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Concerto

J.S. BACH

CALL TO WORSHIP

◆INVOCATION

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you show us
the breadth of your power and the depth of your love.
You listen to our cries of pain and hear our laments.
You see the fear in our eyes and know the secrets of our hearts.
You do not turn from our distress, but stretch out your hand
to heal, to comfort, and to save.
All thanks and praise be to you, O God;
your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

◆HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 662

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

◆PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: To humans belong the plans of the heart,
All: but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue.
One: All a person's ways seem pure to him,
All: but motives are weighed by the LORD.
One: Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
All: and he will establish your plans.
One: In their hearts humans plan their course,
All: but the LORD establishes their steps.

Silent Personal Confession

◆ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

◆SONG OF RESPONSE

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.

◆SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN TO SHINE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Nehemiah 2:1-20

SERMON

Return, Rebuild, and Renew: Nehemiah's Life after Exile
ii. Life and Planning

◆HYMN NO. 353

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

◆AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM THE NICENE CREED (381)

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 at 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

◆INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

ANTHEM

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name
Sanctuary Choir

BRYAN JEFFREY LEECH

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER AND 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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

OFFERING

◆ BENEDICTION

◆ SENDING SONG

Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

◆ POSTLUDE

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

GRAHAM KENDRICK

◆ *Please stand, if able*

Leading the service today: Daniel Smoak, Pastor; Lissa Long, Pastor; Janie Bruce, Director of Youth and Children; Robin Zemp, Music; Meg Dorsel, Livestream.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #2778901

TODAY WE SHARE THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to share in the bread and the cup. For those in the Sanctuary or Covenant Hall, please use the prepared elements you received when you arrived. For those worshipping online, gather juice and bread (or wine or crackers) to participate. Children are invited to the table provided they've had instruction at home or in Westminster's worship prep class (1st grade).

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

On Sunday, May 9, we will collect the Mother's Day Offering for the benefit of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. For over 60 years, this offering has been an important act of support for this unique ministry of SC Presbyterians to older adults. The proceeds are used solely to support residents at Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina who have outlived their life savings through no fault of their own and now depend on the kindness of others. The cost of Charitable Care in 2020 was \$1,059,786. You may drop your offering in the plate that morning, mail it in to the church, or give online at wpccharleston.org. Make checks payable to Westminster, or choose "Presbyterian Home" on the online menu. Thank you!

PLAYGROUND THANK YOU!!

Last month, we made you aware of an opportunity to share in our playground renovation project. Our goal was to raise \$9,000, with the WPC Endowment matching (3 to 1) up to \$27,000 for a total budget of \$36,000. Within a short period of time, church and preschool families gave more than \$13,000!! We are amazed by how so many of you responded so promptly and generously, and we are so grateful for your kindness in thinking about the future of the church and preschool. For years to come, children and their families will benefit from your gifts of love. Please accept a hearty THANK YOU on behalf of the church, preschool, and children, and look for installation sometime this summer.

NEHEMIAH 2:1-20

¹In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." ⁶And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. ⁷And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

⁹Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. ¹⁰But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

¹¹So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. ¹²Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. ¹³I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. ¹⁵Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. ¹⁶And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

¹⁷Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision." ¹⁸And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. ¹⁹But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" ²⁰Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim^[a] in Jerusalem.

COVID PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

When You Arrive

1. Everyone is required to wear a mask upon entering the church. If you don't have a mask, the ushers will have plenty available for you and your children (older than 2). Wearing a mask, along with social distancing, is the best way for us to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our church family, especially given the fact that up to half of all people who have the virus don't feel or display any symptoms.
2. Hand sanitizer will be available and should be used upon entering.
3. In the sanctuary, every other pew will be roped off and closed to provide as much social distancing as possible. In order to minimize touch contamination, please pick up your own bulletin from the narthex table.
4. Ushers will guide you and your family to a properly distanced seat, starting with the front of the sanctuary. Please graciously allow them to do so in order to maintain social distancing while safely maximizing occupancy.
5. All restrooms will be open for use, one at a time please.

During the Service

1. During time for children, the children will remain with their family and not gather on the chancel steps.
2. Offering plates will be at the entrances/exits to receive your offering.
3. Please keep your mask on through the entire worship service.
4. If you have young children, this may be their first time back in the sanctuary in a long time. You may be worried about how they will behave, if they will make too much noise, or if they will be too wiggly. Please don't worry at all! We welcome the signs of life- especially after going so long without it!

After the Service Ends

1. The ushers will dismiss the congregation by row from the side aisles, beginning at the rear of the sanctuary, in order to keep us distanced as we exit.
2. Please place your used bulletins in the recycling baskets at each exit or take them home with you. Please do not leave them on the pews.

Communion

1. Communion Kits will be available in the narthex. Please take one as you pick up your bulletin. Gluten-free kits will also be available.
2. The Communion Kit contains: a zip-lock bag, a sealed sanitizing wipe, and a small plastic chalice with bread on one end and juice on the other.
3. When communion begins, you may remove and open the wipe to clean your hands, and/or absorb any spills. When prompted by the Pastor to take the bread, remove the seal and take it from the bottom of the chalice. When prompted to drink the juice, remove the seal and drink.
4. Place the empty chalice and wipe back into the bag to take with you when you exit the sanctuary. Dispose of the bag in the trashcans at the exits.



RETURN, REBUILD, AND RENEW WITH WESTMINSTER

This spring as part of the Sermon Series from Nehemiah, we invite you as a congregation to Return, Rebuild, and Renew with Westminster. As you feel more comfortable and as more events and opportunities become available, we welcome you to return to a new normal at Westminster, to rebuild that relationship and foundation with God through discipleship as a present congregation, and to renew your faith through worship and fellowship opportunities that will continue to evolve, change and grow.

As simple as the children's rhyme...

Here is the church, here is the steeple,

open the doors and here are ALL the people.

We hope to ALL return, rebuild and renew together soon.

Please fill out the Serve Faithfully Form below to sign up for the volunteer opportunities the church is hoping to utilize as we continue to Return, Rebuild, and Renew at Westminster.

Serve Faithfully Form

In an effort to resume a new normal at Westminster, we are gathering information for volunteers as opportunities and events become available. Even if you have volunteered in the past, we would like you to still fill out the form.

1. First and Last Name _____

2. If volunteering as an acolyte, child's name(s) _____

3. Phone Number _____

4. Email _____

5. Worship Volunteer Opportunities

Check all that apply.

_____ Children's Church (11 a.m. Worship)

_____ Acolytes (11 a.m. Worship)

_____ Ushers for Early Service (we will train for COVID protocols)

_____ Ushers for 11 a.m. Worship (we will train for COVID protocols)

_____ Early Service Special Music

6. Additional Volunteer Opportunities

Check all that apply.

_____ Vacation Bible School (July 12-16)

_____ Office Volunteers (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

_____ Food Pantry Bag Packers

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;




Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;




Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.



This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740

MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON
7.7.7.7.7

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

right - teous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24–27/Luke 6:47–49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER

We are delighted that you have joined us for in-person or online worship, and we hope you are encouraged and strengthened in the faith. If you have a prayer request or questions about faith, life, or being part of the Westminster family, we invite you to reach out by call or text to one of our pastors.

Pastor Daniel Smoak: 843-872-1001

Pastor Lissa Long: 843-810-2232

For more information about Westminster or to subscribe to our weekly ENews and email updates visit our website at www.wpccharleston.org

VIRTUAL FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

Please let us know you're here by completing the Virtual Friendship Register. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to open or find on our website under the Quick Links, Virtual Friendship Register.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday May 4 a link to register will be available in Tuesday's E-News and at www.wpccharleston.org. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 12–16. We are accepting the first 80 registrations.

FROM THE WESTMINSTER PULPIT

Return, Rebuild, and Renew: Nehemiah's Life after Exile

The Israelites had experienced a terrible time: the destruction of Jerusalem and the sacred temple, deportation to Babylon, and life as exiles among their enemies. But now they were permitted to come back to the ruins of their sacred city. It is time to Return, Rebuild, and Renew, learning about a new life prepared for them by God. Nehemiah is a book about life and rebuilding after exile: perfect for us as we climb back from the Covid pandemic.

Today	Nehemiah 2:1-20	Life and Planning
May 9	Nehemiah 3:1-32	Life and Building
May 16	Nehemiah 4:1-23	Life and Persistence
May 23	Nehemiah 5:1-19	Life and Justice
May 30	Nehemiah 8:1-18	Life and Rejoicing
June 6	Nehemiah 9:1-31	Life and Confession
June 13	Nehemiah 10	Life and Renewal
June 20	Nehemiah 12 & 13	Life and Patterns

JOIN US FOR DISCIPLESHIP!

CHILDREN - Join us in Sunday School Zoom at 9:00 am. Meeting ID: 867 718 0847 Passcode: 1776

YOUTH - Check your emails! Mrs. Janie has a great schedule planned for Middle School and High Schoolers. If you haven't received an email, please let the Church Office know.

ADULTS—

Our study is called "Meeting the Spirit" facilitated by Pastor Daniel, Pastor Lissa, and Lindy Coleman. Join us on Sunday mornings 9:00–9:45 am on Zoom.

- Meeting ID: 856 1961 4490
- Passcode: 12345
- Dial in by phone: 646-558-8656

Westminster Prays

Carol Cummings	Meg Powell	Summer Garris	Andria Sanchez Freeman
Bill Myers	Keith Gordon	Mary Ashley Barbot	Chrissie Bosworth
Dart Willer	Shirley Seay	Doris Fox	Ginger Siefring
Bill Pennekamp	Larry Salley	Joyce Aydlett	Martin Davis
Kate Pennekamp	John Ligon	Daryn Baker	Kevin Ritzel
Sara McCoy	Dot Dangerfield	Curtis Sponseller	Gloria Underhill
Love Moody	Lydia Crosby	Sean Fitzgibbon	Jeff Bryant
Karen Dangerfield	David Morris IV	Thom Penney	Barbara Johnston
Lisa Wilcox	Brian Carlow	Nikolai Fruth	Michael Morgan
Harold Fountain	Frances McLean	Allan Scott	Lydia Howell
Holli Hughes	David Kerr	Mary Martschink	Lee Zack
Fran Ligon	Sharon Hutchinson	David Wiggins	Joye and Kurt Teachman
Nancy Plowden	Harper Croft	Jamie Brooks	Nita Rodemann
Gary Brooks	Deb Sloan	Ginger Greene	Jean Isbell
Steve Buddin	Bob Ferguson	Hanger Family	Will Kuenzel
Rosa Oswald	Clif Green	Allene Buddin	Jack Watson
Rick Unger	Pam Smith	Libba Johnson	

Friend of the Week

Pat Coggins
201 W. 9th North St. Unit 93
Summerville, SC 29483

Mission of the Week

Habitat for Humanity
731 Meeting St.
Charleston, SC 29403

College Student

Caitlin Shelor
2036 Egret Lane
Charleston, SC 29414

Church Family

Marvin and Catherine Morgan
Whitney
John and Carolyn Niblock

WESTMINSTER SESSION

Class of 2021

Allyn Bruce
John Dounian
Norman Hook
Dale Norman
Michael Patrick
Paul Patrick

Class of 2022

Nancy Dixon
Sandra Pell
Kendall Ramsay
Carole Russell
Nathan Snider
Graham Wade

Class of 2023

Matthew Akery
David Boyd
Earl Frasier
Brenda Gibson
Tim Platts
Nathan Ward

Clerk - Priscilla Holtzclaw
Treasurer - Doug Earnst

Assistant Clerk - Carole Russell
Assistant Treasurer - Patty Stokes

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Charleston, SC 29407
www.wpccharleston.org (843) 766-8311

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Smoak, Pastor, dsmoak@wpccharleston.org
Rev. Lissa Long, Associate Pastor, mlong@wpccharleston.org
Mr. Robin Zemp, Director of Music, rzemp@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Janie Bruce, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, jbruce@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Nita Rushton, Office Administrator, office@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Tommye Owen, Financial Administrator, finance@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Alicia Crosby, Preschool Director, preschool@wpccharleston.org
Mrs. Meg Dorsel, Communications Coordinator, mdorsel@wpccharleston.org