

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Processional*

Daniel Gawthrop

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

O God from whom all blessings flow, help us to embrace the unique gifts your Spirit has instilled in each of us. Give us the wisdom to discern where your world could use our talents most, and grant us humility to recognize where we rely on the strength and insight of others, so that, in mutual giving and receiving, all needs may be met, according to the way of Jesus through his life and death. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements

Ellie Forsyth

Call to Worship (responsive)

You are the salt of the earth.

Let us share our bread, giving glory to God.

You are the light of the world.

Let us shine our light, giving glory to God.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn of Praise 377 – *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

* Call to Confession

Into this space we bring our weights and burdens—the things we have done or not done, said or not said. Trusting in God's mercy, let us lay down those burdens before God.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of glory, we confess that we have not sought your face. We ignore the needs of the poor and turn away from our own kin. We allow the gospel to go stale, and hide the light you have given. Forgive us; give us grace. By the renewing gifts of your Spirit inspire and empower us again to show the wonder of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. (time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Beloved, hear the good news: When we cry for help, God says, "Here I am!" When we ask for mercy, God grants it freely, longing for a closer walk with us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 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.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Pam Love

Prayer for Illumination

God of shining splendor, your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder. Overshadow us with your Spirit so that we may hear your Word and live as faithful disciples and covenant people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

pew Bible pg. 927

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *Keep Your Lamps!*

Arr. by Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning (repeat) the time is drawing nigh.
Keep your children, don't get weary (repeat) 'til your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over (repeat) the time is drawing nigh.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning (repeat) the time is drawing nigh.

Second Reading – Matthew 5:13-20

pew Bible pg. 786

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *Salt of the Earth*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 731 – *Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm*

* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from The Confession of 1967, 9.08 (unison) –

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

We approach God in prayer not as strangers, but as beloved children, baptized in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for the church . . . By Christ's grace, let us be what you intended—salt of the earth and light for the world, a living sign of your coming realm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for the earth . . . Let new life spring up in parched places; restore the forests, rebuild the cities; renew and repair your good creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for all nations . . . Blow the trumpet and sound the alarm! Loose the bonds of injustice in every place; break the yoke, and let the oppressed go free. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for this community . . . Help us to share our bread with the hungry, to welcome the poor into our homes, to clothe the naked and protect the vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for loved ones . . . Be near to those who cry to you for help. Be with them in the gloom of their despair; satisfy their needs and restore their souls. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, as you are well pleased with Christ, help us to live in a way that will be pleasing to you. As you have called us to listen to Christ, help us to always heed his word and seek his will. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, your beloved Child, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Invitation to Offering

There is only one Lord and God, from whom all things come and for whom we live. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Pastorale*

Raymond Haan

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of glory, as people brought gifts to the infant Jesus, we bring our gifts to you. May these gifts be used to lift up those who are oppressed, to bring deliverance to those who are in need, to support those who are poor, and to help those who are in trouble.

Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 700 – *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

The loving kindness of the Lord our God, the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**

Go and tell this good news of great joy: to us a Savior is born. **Amen.**

* Postlude – *Brillante*

Robert Hughes

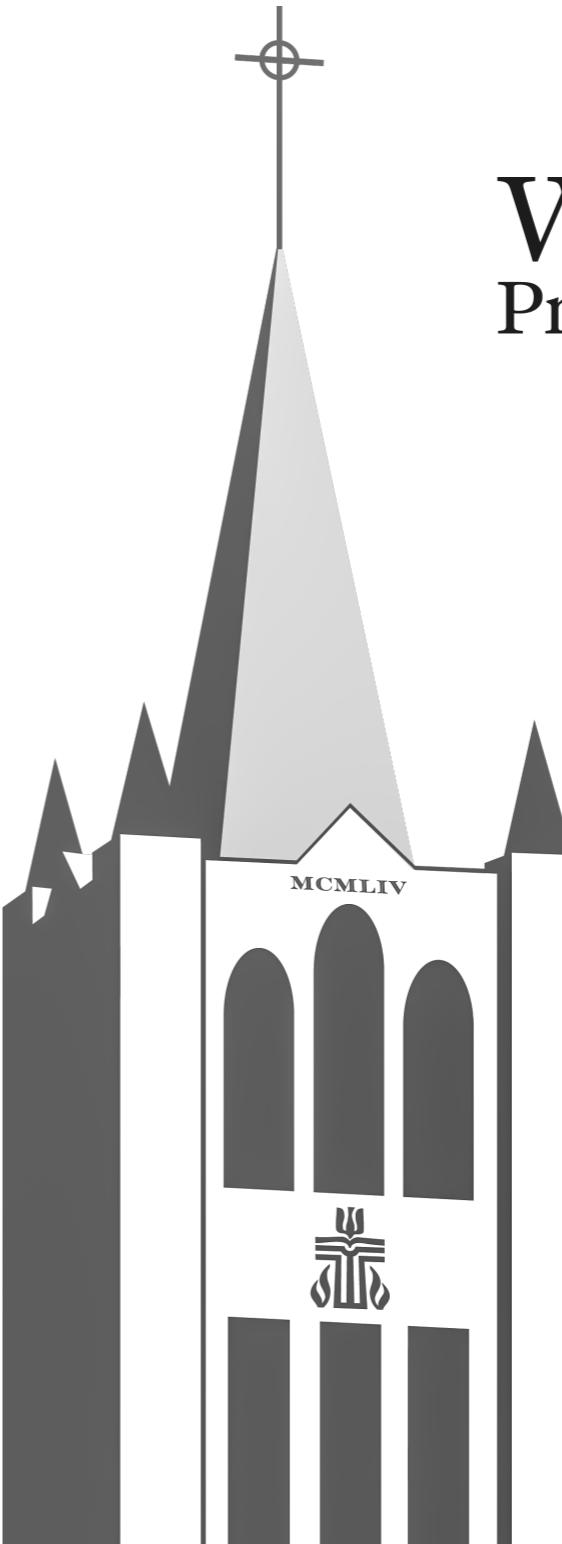
There will be an annual congregational meeting following the service.

If you need to leave, please do so during the Postlude.



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold**.

Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created by the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation—everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

II Corinthians 5:17

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PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(* new added prayers)

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Franklin Bryant – recovering from broken pelvis at home

Larry & Margaret Burge of Poplarville, friend of Michael Yore – Larry has cancer

Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues

Deidra Dickenson, Kathy Cain's sister – onset dementia

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Lee Graham, Pam Love's son-in-law – health issues

Jim Harris, Dixie Coats' brother-in-law's father – in hospital with serious health issues

*Mckenna Hawkins, daughter of Michael Yore's friend – cancer

Charles "Rocky" Hartfield, friend of Pam Love – health issues

Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister – continued strength through addiction recovery

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's

B.J. Lambert

Vivian Lochhead, daughter of Bob and Margaret Lochhead – eye issues

Peggy McCarthy, friend of Iris Easterling – facing serious health issues

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues

Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – broken shoulder

Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues

Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage

Ella Young, sister of Janet Baldwin – struggling with dementia

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For the family and friends of Tab Buchanan, whose brother died last weekend



Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

There will be an **annual congregational meeting** today following worship. The purpose of the meeting will include: hearing a summary of the annual statistical report; hearing a financial report on 2025 and the 2026 budget; approving changes to the pastor's terms of call; approving the pastor's sabbatical plans; and electing the 2026 officer nominating committee.

Today, everyone is invited to Montague Hall to enjoy some hot soup and dessert following the congregation meeting. The Youth will be collecting donations for the **Souper Bowl of Caring**.



Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., and **Circle 2** will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

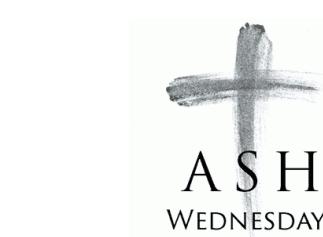
Chancel Choir will meet on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Men of the Church will meet on Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery.

Deacons will meet next Sunday at 11:35 a.m. in the Generation Room.

The Session will meet in the conference room next Sunday at 11:35 a.m.

New Beginnings will meet on Monday, Feb. 16, at noon. Please let Tommy or Martha know you are coming.



WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18

5:30 MEAL

6:00 SERVICE

**JOINT MEAL AND SERVICE WITH PARKWAY
HEIGHTS AT WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN**



Breadbasket week is Feb. 23-26

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Martha to volunteer.
601-584-7574

To donate to WPC online, scan the QR code and follow the instructions.

