



WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 3, 2026

Sermon Series



This spring, as we celebrate the Great 50 days of the Easter season, let us embrace the gifts of resurrection and new life given to us in Jesus. In this sermon series we will look at how scripture expands our vision to realize that resurrection and new life are not only spiritual gifts and only for humans, but a promise for all of creation. As part of the service we will explore our place in God's wide creation and our special responsibility to care for the earth.

WELCOME!

We are grateful you are here to worship with us! We are an open community of Christians helping people find and give hope through Jesus Christ - regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, disability or socioeconomic background. No matter who you are, where you are from, who you love, or what you look like, know that God loves you and YOU BELONG HERE.

Whether you are visiting with us or looking for a church home, it's great to have you here with us! Please scan the QR code to let us know you are worshipping with us today and let us know how we can help you.



New Here?

- We have many children's ministries for your children to be a part of!
- We have special listening devices for those who are hearing impaired.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

For more information, visit our website at wsmethodist.org

No one at Washington Street will solicit you for gift cards of any kind!



Making Disciples of Jesus for the Transformation of the World

The congregation of Washington Street UMC praises and serves God from the heart of the city in ways that reach neighbors near and far. We welcome and affirm all who seek the love and mercy of Christ, regardless of race, creed, age, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. We honor traditions as rooted in our history, our expression of worship, and our respect for theological curiosity. We nonetheless see vital change and ongoing renewal as essential for spiritual growth.

Today's Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

Order of Worship
5th Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Shirley

RINGING OF THE BELL

CHORAL INTROIT *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leland Spencer

Leader: We come in faith, knowing we are God's own.

All: We come in hunger, needing guidance for the journey.

Leader: We come in sincerity, seeking relationship with God's creatures.

All: We come in humility, facing our limitations.

Leader: We come in hope, yearning for God's grace.

All: We come in joy, knowing God meets us here. Amen.

*HYMN #310 (UMH)

He Lives

ACKLEY

SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Rev. Lippert

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Kathy James

Following the Children's moments, children ages 3-5 will be escorted by a Children's Church leader to Children's Church in the 2-3 year-old Sunday school room, where they may be picked up after the worship service. Older children will return to their parents.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (To be prayed in unison)

God of all glory, on the first day you began creation by bringing light out of darkness. Years later on the first day of the week, you began your new creation raising Jesus Christ out of the darkness of death. On this Lord's day grant that we, the people you create by water and the spirit, might see your light illuminating our true colors. We confess that we live often live as if we are the center of the world. Forgive our blindness to what you would have us to be and to do. Forgive us for the waste of our time and talents and gifts, and for our abuse of the earth, your creation. Forgive us by your mercy, O God, for the sins held secret in our hearts, as we open them to you in silence...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Despite our urge to pull apart, in spite of our tenacity to hold to our old ways, our loving God continues to call us back together again, showing us the true nature of forgiveness. God does not keep score of our wrongs. So Hear the Good News: In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Holy Forever
Soloist: Taylor Goodwin

Cece Winans

*HOMILY

True Colors

Rev. Becky

If you would like for us to join you in prayer, please find a prayer card in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate during the service today. You may also email your prayer requests to wsumcprayers@gmail.com

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Leader: O God, you bring light out of darkness and hope where none can be found. As we give you thanks for this meal and the light of hope expressed most completely in your Son Jesus Christ, we pray that you will give us grace to know him more fully and to live with confidence into the new life you to offer us.

As we remember how on the night Jesus freely gave himself to death, he took bread and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying

"Take , eat, this is my body, given for you"

We also recall how when the supper was over, Jesus took the cup of blessing, and after giving thanks to you, he gave it to his disciples saying "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood, the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you do this - do it in remembrance of me".

We do so asking that you send forth your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and that being built up by this precious sacrament of your grace, we might live more fully the new life you offer to us. We ask it in his name, singing together the prayer he taught us.

(See insert to sing The Lord's Prayer)

Receiving The Bread and The Cup

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Who But the Lord?* Craig Courtney

*HYMN #314 (UMH)

In the Garden

GARDEN

*BENEDICTION & CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Ann Bell | Barbara Graybill |
| Sarah- Kate Gravely | Karen Horne |
| Lisa Johnson | Jean Leitner |
| Jim Lane | Sam Matthews |
| Paul McClanahan | Ellen Parker |
| Patrick McClanahan | Carole McConkey |
| Cathy Puckett | Joe Plough |
| Nancy Whittle | Sam Waldrep |
- Our Homebound Members

Prayer Thought
Father, help is to let go of the past and step forward in faith believing in Your divine plan.

Stewardship Report
Attendance on 4/26: 296
160 in person
136 online (as of 4/30)

Offerings
YTD Received: \$309,320
YTD Soup Cellar Gifts: \$23,348

Expenses
YTD General: \$335,309
YTD Soup Cellar : \$21,917

Foundation
FYTD Gifts: \$5,633
Thank you for your

Financial Support

Your Gifts help make ministry happen every day !

You may give by texting CONNECTIONS to 73256 Your gift to 1401 Washington Street, Columbia, 29201 by scanning the QR you see here.



Calendar of Ministry Events

Botanical Gardens Trip - May 7th - 8:30 AM

Our Daytrippers group will be going to Moore Farms Botanical Garden. We will depart from the church at 8:30 AM and return in the late afternoon. To sign up, email Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org. Deadline to sign up is Monday, May 4.

Mother's Day Offering - May 10 - 11 AM

Most of the children served by Epworth will not be celebrating Mother's Day with their birth mothers this year. Instead, they will be surrounded by loving staff or foster parents who work with them daily to provide spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical support. The Mother's Day offering is our opportunity to partner with Epworth to improve the lives of the children and the families they serve.

Reading Club - May 13 - 6 PM

All are invited to join us in the John Harper Classroom for a book discussion on *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

Ecuador Supply Donations

Our annual Ecuador mission trip is just a month away! If you'd like to donate supplies for their trip, scan this QR code to view their Amazon shopping list! Supplies will be delivered to Tom Wall who will pack and ship them to Ecuador.



Graduation Sunday - May 17th

We will be recognizing our graduating students during our special Graduation Sunday! All families with graduating students are invited to have their graduates recognized during our 11 AM service. Sign up by using this QR Code.



Today's Volunteer Team

Acolyte:	Lucy Woods
Children's Church:	Shelley Stafford Lizzie Chewing
Greeters:	Ute
Sound/Video/Projection:	Jacob Valdez Ryan Wisks
Ushers:	Ricky Rowe and Lee Smith
Communion Servers	Mary Lide, Jim Tuell Tommy Betenbaugh, and Cathy Hooker

Contact Information

Website:	wsmethodist.org
Address:	1401 Washington Street Columbia, SC 29201
Phone:	803-256-2417
Email:	info@wsmethodist.org
Office Hours:	Monday - Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm & Fridays 9:00-am- 2:00 pm

Safe Space



We are committed to providing a safe, healing and affirming environment for All of God's Children to grow in Faith.

Staff Worship Leadership Team

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Becky Shirley	rjshirley@umcsc.org
Associate Pastor for Nurture:	Rev. Alston Lippert	aflippert@umcsc.org
Director of Music Ministries:	Dr. Catherine Nance	catherine@wsmethodist.org
Organist:	David Turner	david@wsmethodist.org
Pianist:	Dr. Rick Frierson	(volunteer)
Audio/Video Technology	Ryan Wiskes	ryan@wsmethodist.org