

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Re-Member Me” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*This is the day that our God has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

The Service for the Lord's Day
Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2020

Our Mission: "Caring, sharing and growing God's love in our communities."

For Reflection and Prayer

"Not Too Many Times"

~ Written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

My great-grandfather would come home
from work
To find his love at the kitchen sink—
Scrubbing potatoes or freeing the corn,
Holy ordinary types of things.

And he would slide,
Arms around waist,
To draw near enough
To ask her the phrase,
"My dear,
Have I told you today?"

"Have I told you today that
I love you?". . .

Day after day
It was always the same,
Because some things
You can't not say.
So she would smile
And with heartbeat to spine,
She would reply,
"Not too many times."

And it seems to me
That he must have known
That certain truths
Must be told
Over and over
And over again
So that love has a chance
To slowly sink in.

And it seems to me
That she must have known
That stories of love
Cannot be told
Too many times.
So tell me again
Of the love that serves
As beginning and end.

I guess what I'm trying to say
Is that we are forgetful people most days.
We remember the melody but forget the
words.
We remember the past but forget the hurt.
We remember the face but forget the name.
We remember who God is but forget that
God stays.

So when Jesus said,
"Do this in remembrance of me,"
Maybe he was standing with us at the sink
Saying to us, "Have I told you today?"
For some things you can't *not* say.

So tell me that story
And tell me again
Until my whole world
Is caught up in
A love that lasts
And a God that saves.

And if you ask, I will say,
"Not too many times."

Westminster Chimes

Words of Welcome

Organ Prelude

“Be Thou My Faithful Guide”

~ *Bach*

Call to Worship

May we remember

✘ **That God created.**

May we remember

✘ **That God liberated.**

May we remember

✘ **That God fed.**

May we remember

✘ **That God is *still* creating,
God is *still* liberating,
And God is *still* feeding us.**

Let this be our story.

✘ **Let this be where we begin.**

Let us worship holy God.

Hymn

“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

(All are invited to join Ric Fernandes in singing the hymn.)

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now thy crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliver, strong deliver,
Be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee

Call to Confession

We know, despite our sincere efforts to live in God's way, that all too easily, we forget that God's ways are not the way of the world. Trusting that God will answer our prayers and forgive us, let us confess our sins, as we pray together,

Prayer of Confession

✠ Holy God,

We admit to remembering the wrong things.

We remember worldly lessons like,

"Everyone for themselves,"

"An eye for an eye," and

"All is fair in love and war."

And yet, we forget to forgive 70 times seven,

To love our neighbors as ourselves,

And to live like the body of Christ.

Why is it so hard to remember the right things?

Release us from our muscle memory and

Re-center us in a new place,

A fresh place,

A space grounded in your love.

Help us to receive your word anew,

And to consider stewardship not with the world's rules,

But with your rules.

Help us remember

With hope we pray, Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Remember the good news: the One who showed us how to live like there is enough for everybody is the one who died for all people, offering more than enough forgiveness for each of us out of the abundance of God's generous grace to us. Remember, we have been saved by grace, forgiven once and for all and restored to right relationship with God. Know this and be at peace. Amen.

**Passing the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you.

✠ And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,
There is something about scripture that stirs us awake.
For when we hear of a deep love that made room for everyone at the table,
We remember that we are hungry.
And when we hear of manna raining down in the desert,
We remember that we are lost.
There is something about scripture that stirs us awake,
And it feels like hunger and it looks like hope.
So stir us awake, oh God.
Remind us that this story starts with love and ends with love.
We are hungry, which is to say, we are listening. Amen.

First Lesson - Exodus 16:1-18

Here ends the first lesson.

✘ **Thanks be to God!**

Vocal Solo

“I Will Not Leave You Comfortless”

~ *Richard Row*

Ric Fernandes

Second Lesson – Luke 22: 1-23

May these ancient words of scripture become for us the living voice of God.

✘ **Amen!**

Sermon

“Remember”

**Affirmation of Faith*

The story of God calls us to remember—

✘ **that creation was made good,
and Sabbath is necessary.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

✘ **that we belong to one another,
for we are bone of bone and flesh of flesh.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

✘ **that reconciliation between siblings is holy,
and slavery of any kind is evil.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

✘ **that the wilderness is real,
and that God will be with us—
raining down manna and speaking in a still, small voice.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

- ✘ **that love looks like healing the sick,
eating with the outcast,
making room for the children,
and seeing the unseen.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

- ✘ **because if we forget, we risk making God, love, and reconciliation small.**

So as we remember, may we declare—

- ✘ **we believe in a God who made all things good,
who stands with the suffering,
walks with us in the wilderness,
sees the overlooked,
loves with an untamed heart,
and makes room for all at God's table. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

Invitation to the Offering

We grieve the broken and unjust economic systems that surround us. We remember all who are left without needs met this day, and seek to be faithful, just, and generous in the stewardship of all our resources. Renouncing all loyalties to wealth and power, let us bring our offerings to God and one another.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,

As we come to you today in prayer, we admit that giving is complicated.

At times it is easier to remember our shame or guilt around giving,
as opposed to your joy or generosity.

We all have our money narratives, and they affect us in different ways.

So today as we offer our gifts to you,

we pray that you would re-center our narrative.

Remind us that we do not give out of shame or guilt.

We do not give out of obligation.

We do not give to feel worthy.

And we do not give to buy your grace.

We give out of a desire to participate.
We give as a sign of gratitude.
We give because we belong to one another.
We give to build a more just and equitable world.
We give because we love, and that's what love does.
So take these gifts and remind us that we belong to one another.
Remind us that all money narratives are welcome at this table.
Remind us that whatever shame or guilt we bring with us
 will be washed away with your empathy and love.
Remind us, and then help us to build that more beautiful world.
In hope we pray, Amen.

***Hymn** "O God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"
 (All are invited to join Ric Fernandes in singing the hymn.)

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ your Son;
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor lest we strive for self alone
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred,
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed God's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

***Benediction**

Help us remember that with you, there is always enough for all
Help us remember that with you, we can give with generosity.
Help us remember that with you, we do not have to be driven by fear,
After all, even Judas was invited to the meal,
And in the wilderness, there is manna.
Help us remember so that as we go out from today, we can share your enoughness
with our world.

Benediction Response

Assisting in Worship

Our Music Director is Sally Waugaman

Our Soloist is Ric Fernandes

Our Lay Reader and Service Recorder is Beverly Cook

Remember in Prayer

Pray for all those touched recently by violence and natural disasters, the healing of national hostility and mistrust, efforts to feed the poor and provide shelter for the homeless in our area, and the following people:

Audrey Bachman & family - friend of Sarah Altvater, dealing with the sudden, tragic death of her son.

Linda Book – still dealing with pain and lack of strength.

Frances Cowgill – has a genetic condition causing serious loss of calcium in her bones. She is being treated on an outpatient basis with an intravenous calcium drip.

Peter Culin – Sue Culin's brother-in-law, going back on chemotherapy.

Susan Frost – Sally Waugaman's daughter, undergoing chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer.

Kathryn Hacker – Mimi Peters' daughter, had two hip replacements and is undergoing therapy.

Leon Hendershot – cousin of Sandra Hrin and Mary Boyer, has suffered liver failure and has been removed from the clinical trial at Sloan Kettering.

Judy Marsden – friend of Deb Norton, still in discomfort but having at-home physical therapy.

Bob Moore – is dealing with pulmonary fibrosis.

Dee Moore – dealing with severe pain in her jaws.

Mason Moore – grandson of Bob & Dee Moore, knee surgery was successful but he will have a lengthy recovery period.

Elise Moore – Bob & Dee Moore's daughter-in-law, recovering from knee surgery.

Joan Nicholls – improving steadily.

Bud Nicholson – Bob Nicholson's brother still struggling with very poor circulation in one leg.

Bob Paulding – John Paulding's brother, working through a long journey of rehab, re-learning how to swallow, eat and walk independently.

Betty Pratt - working hard on therapy but still weak and tires easily.

Col. Richard Quinn (Ret.) – in and out of the hospital, still battling numerous health issues.

Samuel Ryan – 8 year-old grandson of Karen and Glenn Dixon, undergoing tests for health issues.

Mike Sant Angelo – brother of a friend of Mary Boyer, failing and remains on hospice.

Betsy Tellier – Deb Norton's niece, diagnosed with serious heart problems and severe sleep apnea.

Carl Wagner – Bob & Jane Nicholson's son-in-law, suffering from a herniated disk and a partial rotator cuff tear. Anticipating surgery.

Janet Waugaman – Sally's Waugaman's daughter, diagnosed with Parkinson's disease two years ago has developed Multiple System Atrophy, a more progressive form of Parkinsons.

Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask. Contact Karen Dixon by phone at 302-858-8968 or email at k_dixon221@hotmail.com

Announcements

Welcome to worship! Even though we are not able to be together physically, we hope that as you participate in the recorded worship service today that you will encounter the unity that we share in Christ's Spirit. If you would prefer to listen to the worship service by phone, you may contact Leslie Marsh; either send her an email (cmarshjr@verizon.net) or call her at (302-945-4604) to arrange a conference call in which you will listen to the service together.

A Special Communion next Sunday

You are invited to come to the church, by car or on foot, on Sunday, November 1st, between noon and 1pm, for Drive-Through Communion. Wear a mask. Enter church yard on Laurel St. and leave by Philadelphia St. exit. Communion elements are individual, sealed, and safe. Offering Basket available to drop-off pledges/offerings.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Please plan to join us via Zoom on Sunday, November 15th at 11:15am for a Special Congregational Meeting to Hear and Vote Upon the Report of the Nominating Committee to Elect New Officers for 2021. You can also participate by phone if you are not able to use Zoom. Details on how to join the Zoom meeting or the phone meeting will follow.

We would like to remember and honor all who have died during this past year on All Saints' Day next Sunday, November 1st. We will remember them in worship by reading their name and chiming a bell for them. If you have the name of someone close to you (family or close friend) who has died since All Saints' Day in 2019, please contact the church office no later than Thursday, October 29th.

TECHNOLOGY CORNER:

Are you a **Facebook** user? Please **like and share** our [WPC's Facebook page](#) with all your friends! This action would widen our presence in our community and beyond.

Are you an **Instagram** user? Please **follow** the [church's new Instagram account](#). This is an opportunity to engage with the younger generations in our communities.

Want to watch the church's videos online through **YouTube** without going through Facebook or Instagram? **Subscribe** to the church's new [YouTube Channel](#).

Dear Members and Friends:

We have exciting news to share so read this with an open heart so lend me your eyes and ears for just a few minutes. Hear the good news!

It is often said that challenging times foster new opportunities. With divine intervention, prayerful discernment, and ingenuity, several committees have done just that by identifying new ways to nurture your faith. It is with joy that I find myself among those who understand the need for connectivity with Jesus and one another even though we are **still unable to have an official worship service or fellowship time inside the church building.**

Thanks to the approval by Session at its October 19th meeting, the activities listed below are to be held with certain **protocol requirements*** because we are mindful of protecting everyone from the COVID-19 virus.

Activity #1: Sunday, November 1st, 12 -1p.m. Drive Through/Walk-Up Communion.

Outside the Church on the back lawn. Please enter through the Laurel street driveway and exit onto Philadelphia. REMEMBER: Masks required.

Activity #2: Monday, November 23rd and 30th, 11 AM to 2 PM – Angel Tree tag pickup

Church Narthex: Enter through elevator door; Exit through the front door or by the Pastor's side door.

Monday, December 7th and 14th – 11 AM to 2 PM - Angel Tree gift drop off

Same entrance and exists as above.

In addition, there will be handmade "Welcome" door stops done in needle point available for sale, compliments of our very own Frances Cowgill. These make great gifts for many occasions. Donations from the sales will be given to the Community Resource Center.

Activity #3: Advent Walk Through in December (still to be refined). Look for the details

in November. Advance reservations for the Advent Walk Through may be required. Please check the Sunday Bulletin, Westminster Weekly Email, or regular mail for more details.

***Protocol Requirements for all events:** Everyone entering the Church building & on church grounds will be required to wear a face mask covering nose and mouth, and adhere to social distancing.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Shannon

In light of the ongoing threats posed by the coronavirus, the Session decided to keep the church building closed to gatherings through December 31st. Should there be any change in the schedule, the congregation will be notified.

Calendar

Tuesday, October 27 – *Praying the Psalms* at 11:00 AM with Pastor Shannon.

Wednesday, October 28– Bible Study with Pastor Shannon. At 10:00 AM.

Sunday, November 1 – Recorded Worship Service with Communion (and bulletin) available on our website. There will also be Drive-Through/Walk-Up Communion on the back lawn of the church from 12 noon to 1:00 PM.

The church office is closed. However, calls and emails to the church office will be addressed during regular office hours, Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

DEACONS 2020

Moderator: Deb Norton

Class of 2020

Diana Green
Linda Huxtable

Class of 2021

Suzi Berry
Bill Hrin
Ed Pillsbury

Class of 2022

Nancy Brock
Linda Crowe
Deb Norton

SESSION 2020

Moderator – Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Clerk of Session, Lois Gillespie

Class of 2020

Beverly Cook
Bill Huxtable
Sally Stokes

Class of 2021

Charlotte Jacobs
David Norton
Silvia Ritchie

Class of 2022

John Rotach
John Still

Westminster Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Church Office Hours: 9:30 to 1:30 Tuesday through Friday

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web site: <http://www.westminster-rehoboth.org>

Music Director: Sally Waugaman

Church Secretary: Carol D. Jones

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Office 227-2109

Cell phone: 302-703-9129

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