

Westminster Presbyterian Church



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

The Service for the Lord's Day
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020

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

For Reflection and Prayer

Let no day pass by without reading some portion of the sacred Scriptures and giving some space to meditation; for nothing feeds the soul so well as those sacred studies do.

~ *Theonas of Alexandria (C. 300) The Epistle of Theonas*

Westminster Chimes

Words of Welcome

Welcome to worship from your homes. We pray that the spirit of the living Christ will draw us beyond our walls of separation to encounter unity, hope, and peace.

Organ Prelude "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" *arr: Berry (Piano)*

Call to Worship

All heaven and earth proclaim the majesty of God's creative power!

✘ **Praise God for the amazing and awesome beauty.**

God has given to us codes by which to live together in harmony and peace.

✘ **In these commandments, God has summed up the ways we must respect one another.**

Rejoice in the goodness of God.

✘ **Praise God for God's complete and steadfast love for us. AMEN.**

Hymn

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

(All are invited to join Mary Beth Adair in singing the hymn.)

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.

God, whose word cannot be broken formed thee for a blest abode.

On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?

With salvation's walls surrounded thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,

well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?

Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in the Lord, we dare to approach God with confidence. (Romans 5:8, Hebrews 4:16) In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

✠ **How quick we are to say yes to you, O Lord, and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment. We really want to serve, but we are very weak and are easily drawn away by cares and fears. We pledge ourselves to working for your kingdom but find ourselves pulled this way and that by other demands on our time and energy. Forgive us, O Lord, when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving you. Heal our spirits and give us the bold courage to truly be your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God knows our hearts and our spirits. God sees our struggles and forgives our weakness. Know that, it is in God's healing love that you live and move and have your being. Rejoice, for God is with you always.

✠ **Amen**

**Passing the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth, of mercy, of grace and love.

✠ **Amen.**

First Lesson – Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16

Here ends the first lesson.

✠ **Thanks be to God!**

Vocal Solo

*"You'll Never Walk Alone"
Mary Beth Adair*

Rogers/Hammerstein

Second Lesson - Philippians 2:1-13

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

✠ **Amen!**

Sermon

All That We Know Because of Stories"

The Rev. Barbara Macfie

Affirmation of Faith - (From The New Creed of 1968, United Church of Canada)

Let us affirm our faith together

✠ **We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. ... In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

Pastoral Prayer

Lord of hope and healing, you have heard the cries of our hearts. You know that we do want to serve you, and yet when things get tough, we buckle and cave in. We lack the courage and strength to work for you. You have reminded us that you will be continually with us and we need to place our trust in that fact. Your love will sustain and heal us. Your mercy and grace will give us courage and strength, joy and peace. As we have come before you this day, offering our prayers for those near and dear to us, let us remember that you constantly lift and carry us in your love. Bring us to the knowledge of your mercy and powerful love that will never leave us. Prepare us for ministry in areas of need and desolation. For we ask these things in Jesus 'name. Amen. We continue in prayer with the words Jesus taught us to pray:

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.**

The Offering

If you have your offering ready to mail or to set aside until we are able to worship together again, please hold it in your hands as we pray together.

**Prayer of Dedication*

✠ As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.

**Hymn*

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

(All are invited to join Mary Beth Adair in singing the hymn.)

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.

Fairest the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.

**Charge and Benediction*

Go bravely and boldly into this world of confusion and pain. Bring God’s healing words of love and forgiveness. Know the power of mercy and grace in your life, and use those wonderful gifts to serve God by serving the people.

And now, “May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen

Benediction Response

Assisting in Worship

Our Music Director is Sally Waugaman

Our Soloist is Mary Beth Adair

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 – is feeling stronger as she continues chemotherapy.

Peggy Buryat – friend of Karen & Glenn Dixon, being treated for cancer.

Ed Carter – his daughter, Betty Rapier, died of complications from a poisonous spider bite.

Bonnie Charnock – neighbor of Deb Norton's Sister, has had to postpone chemo therapy because of fever resulting from poor blood platelet count.

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

Shannon Dunford – under Hospice home care

William Fox – brother of Joan Velez, undergoing treatment for his brain tumor.

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.

Erin Jones – Bill & Sandra Hain's dog walker, diagnosed with multiple embolisms in her lungs. She is in Bay Health on blood thinners.

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

Bob Moore – is dealing with pulmonary fibrosis.

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

Joan Nicholls – undergoing physical therapy to regain strength and mobility.

Bud Nicholson – Bob Nicholson's brother, will undergo vascular leg surgery soon for severe circulatory problems.

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, on hospice care and declining each day.

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.

Rev. Barbara Macfie will lead worship today and is available for pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at: 302-945-9582

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, October 7th at 10:00 AM, via zoom. If anyone who has not been attending would like to join the group, we extend a warm invitation to all. Please call the church office for details on how to join the zoom meeting and where and when you can get a copy of the Study Guide for Part II of the study on John, the Apostle.

LRAC's New Life Thrift shop . . .

. . . is back in full operation and continues to support many ministries in our community including the Community Resource Center, the Cape Henlopen Food Basket, West Side New Beginnings, and Immanuel Shelter. Please give your unwanted, lightly used items to the Thrift Shop (newlifeofdelaware.org) which is located at 34686 Jiffy Way, Lewes DE behind Jiffy Lube on Route One. Donations are accepted Mon – Fri 10-2, and Sat 10-1. We are always looking for volunteers. Business is brisk at the thrift shop. We have been busier than we have ever been since reopening on June 1. Patrons are so happy to have a place to shop and our proceeds are increasing weekly, even though we are extremely shorthanded due to some of our older vulnerable volunteers not yet returning.

The extra good news is that NLTS was chosen as one of the recipients of "Hands and Feet Volunteer Service Day" sponsored by The Bridge radio station and Delaware Electric Cooperative. Andrea Caswell, our wonderful manager, applied to this program in the middle of July, and thankfully, NLTS was selected. The event took place Sat., Sept. 12 from 8 to noon. The willing folks who helped painted our fence, window wells and solar panel box, as well as straightening up the donations area and cleaning up the property. Thanks and blessings to all who helped!

Consider giving a little of your time as a volunteer. For more information about LRAC, contact Lois Gillespie or Jim Reed.

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. Thank you.

<https://www.facebook.com/Westminster-Presbyterian-Church-121313251212684>

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.

(The work of the Church goes on. Events are routinely scheduled using Zoom virtual meetings online or by phone. Check with the office for details.)

Calendar

Tuesday, September 29– *Praying the Psalms* at 11:00 AM. Karen Dixon will be the facilitator. Pastor Shannon will lead *Praying the Psalms* beginning October 6th.

Wednesday, September 30 –Bible Study is in recess until October 7th, when Pastor Shannon will begin the study of John II. Bible Study guidebooks are available at the church.

Sunday October 4 – Recorded Worship Service (and bulletin) available on our website. This will be a special service provided by the New Castle Presbytery which will include communion.

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. Douglas Griffin, Interim Pastor

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

Telephone: (302) 227-2109

email: rehobothwpc20@gmail.com

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

Music Director: Sally Waugaman

Church Secretary: Carol D. Jones