

Westminster Presbyterian Church

July 11, 2021 | 10:00am
Live Streaming | In Person

Tending the New Creation: *God's Economy*

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

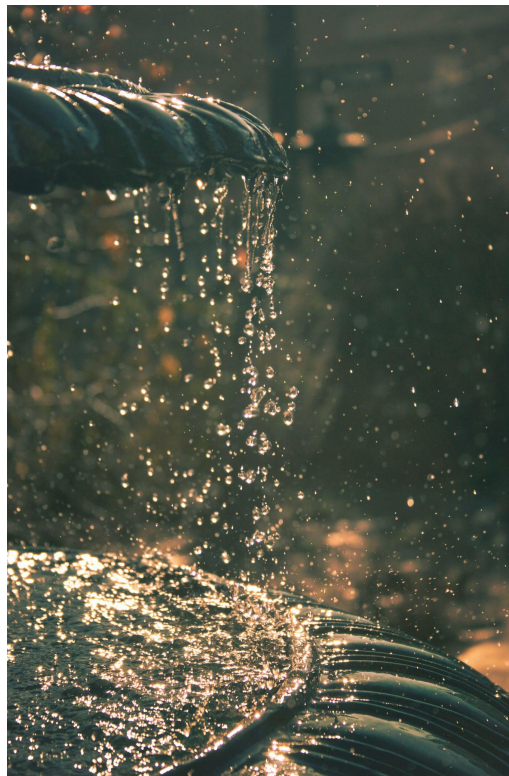


Photo by John Wilson on Unsplash

The Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, out of care and concern for all those who are not yet vaccinated or who cannot be vaccinated, has decided that social distancing (3-6ft.) and masks (covering nose and mouth) are required of all, while inside the church building for Sunday worship. We encourage compassion for all who are sick and vaccination, at the soonest time possible, for all who are unvaccinated.

Welcome families! If your little ones need nursery space or some space to play and move, parents are welcome to take them down to our (unstaffed) Sunday school/nursery room, which is downstairs, off the main fellowship hall, opposite the library.

Gathering as New Creation

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

John Still

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

But what does it mean to be a new creation?

We yearn for renewal . . .

But are we willing to pursue it? And how is our own personal renewal connected to “new creation” in others, in communities, and in the world itself? **“Tending” is to lean in the direction of something; to “attend” to something is to nurture it, grow it, build it, . . . pay “attention.”**

As those baptized into Jesus, may the Spirit so stir the waters of our baptism that we might be newly propelled to journey toward the new creation Christ in-tends for us!

Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Infinite and Loving God, in Jesus and through the Spirit, you are pure love, always seeking to give itself away as our very life.

Thank you for being the giver of all good gifts; their fount, luminous source, always sending forth upon all things, your rays of undivided goodness.

Send your Holy Spirit on us now, that we would learn anew what it means to live in trust, that we are fully forgiven, always being transformed through your love, and that there is more than enough to go around!

Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” vs 1 & 3 *GTG #475*

Greetings in Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

(Exchange waves and smiles with your siblings in Christ.)

A Story for All Ages

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Proclaiming New Creation

Prayer for Illumination

John Still

After Pentecost, those who had gathered together were exhorted by the apostle Peter to change their hearts and lives. Today, we who have been baptized in Jesus’ name, come again before sacred scripture to listen for the Living Word, Jesus, to speak a word of new creation that we, too, might be renewed and transformed. Come, Holy Spirit, change our hearts and lives, through your Word, we pray. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

John Still

Sermon

Overflowing Grace *Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe*

Tending New Creation

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Offering Our Resources & Lives

John Still

Every good thing is a gift from God — the food we eat, the things we have, the time we spend, our whole lives. We give our lives back to God as a way of saying thank you — sharing money with those who are in need, giving food to those who are hungry, spending our time to help others, and building relationships with those who may never become an official church member here. We invite you to join this community in stewarding not only your money, but also your lives. Your pledges and offerings may be given securely online or by cash or check in the baskets as you enter and exit the church. We also invite you to fill out the volunteer card for our upcoming Ice Cream on Us community outreach event and commit to supporting this new endeavor at the church.

Blessing New Creation

Hymn for Stepping Out “Blessed Assurance” vs 1 & 3” GTG # 839

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Postlude

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Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Ushers: Genie Hindall and Mary Boyer

Liturgist: John Still

Musician: Steve Johnson

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

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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:

Ed Carter - At age 102, Ed is under hospice care in the skilled nursing unit at The Moorings. He is comfortable and appreciates our prayers and in-person visits by Covid-vaccinated friends.

Lois Baldwin - prayers as she recovers from surgery on her broken wrist.

Linda Book – for continued strength to fight the side effects of multiple myeloma cancer.

Chuck Burton – extended family of Lois Rayner, dealing with Cancer issues.

Pauline Cottingham – is doing well, despite the general decline in her health. She is grateful for our prayers.

Peter Culin – for Sue Culin’s brother-in-law, as he continues with chemotherapy.

Lacey Meade – daughter of Betty Pratt, is home recovering from her surgery. Prayers for continued healing and recovery.

Pat Mossel – Her shoulder injury has healed, and she is feeling much better. Thanks for your prayers.

Betty Pratt - swelling in her legs greatly reduced as she undergoes massage therapy.

Janet Waugaman – Sally Waugaman’s daughter, continues to lose mobility due to Multiple System Atrophy.

John Witmer - John is recovering at home following heart surgery, and he is working to regain his strength and energy.

**Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask.
Contact Leslie Marsh by phone at 302-542-9927 or email at cmarshjr@verizon.net**