

Westminster Presbyterian Church

August 22nd, 2021 | 10:00am

Live Streaming | In Person

Sacred Earth, Sacred Work: “*Glorious Diversity*”

A Worship Design Studio series written by Dr. Marcia McFee | www.worshipdesignstudio.com



Photo by [Bennett Dungan](#) 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.

Path I: Recognizing Inherent Goodness

Prelude

If the People Lived Their Lives

Gathering and Welcoming

Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

God is good!

All the time!

And all the time!

God is good!

Expanding Our Attention 360°

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

**(choir) Gathered here in the mystery of this hour
Gathered here in one strong body
Gathered here in the struggle and the power
Spirit draw near.**

We recognize that all things around us are full of God's glory. I invite you to take a quarter turn to your right.

ALL: Spirit draw near

Spirit of the East, guardian of wisdom, You who move with the wind, we ask you to breathe new life into our spirits.

ALL: Bless our space as you bless our gathering. Celebrate with us, and be welcome always.

I invite you to make another quarter turn and face the back

ALL: Spirit draw near

Spirit of the South, guardian of passion, You who kindle the flames, we ask you to shine new light into our hearts.

ALL: Bless our space as you bless our gathering. Celebrate with us, and be welcome always.

I invite you to make another quarter turn.

ALL: Spirit draw near

Spirit of the West, guardian of hope, You who we draw from many wells, we ask you to

cleanse and renew our minds.

ALL: Bless our space as you bless our gathering. Celebrate with us, and be welcome always.

I invite you to make another quarter turn.

ALL: Spirit draw near

Spirit of the North, guardian of fertility, You who are the soil, the seed, and the tree, we ask you to empower our resolve for justice.

ALL: Bless our space as you bless our gathering, celebrate with us, and be welcome always.

Let us face the center as the light of Christ comes into our midst.

ALL: Spirit draw near

Spirit of the Center, guardian of love, You who are the singing heart of the Universe, we ask you to be here now in this community. Help us to hear voices old and new, and help us to sing our many songs in harmony.

ALL: Bless our space as you bless our gathering. Celebrate with us, and be welcome always.

**ALL: Gathered here in the mystery of this hour
Gathered here in one strong body
Gathered here in the struggle and the power
Spirit draw near**

And all God's people said, "**Amen!**"

Praising

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

GTG #315

Praying

Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

All-encompassing God,
You who burst forth in every kind and variety of species,
help us to see the incredible diversity that was your intention
so that we might come to love it all, honor it all, care for all.
We praise you for the beauty in every face, in every flower,
in every theme and variation.

And all God's people say, **Amen.**

Path II: Befriending the Dark Places

Listening

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Letting Go and Holding with Love

Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

Let us say together

Breathe in the pain

Breathe on out the love

May my heart be the place

Where this world is changed forever.

We remember and hold with love...

We also remember and hold with love these things lifted silently and aloud from this gathered body...

I invite you to place your hands now on your heart. In this silence we lift up all those things difficult to put into words, but felt in the depths of our hearts...

Breathe in the pain

Breathe on out the love

May my heart be the place

Where this world is changed forever.

Each week we will explore a version of the prayer Jesus taught. This week we encounter a version that comes from the Maori and Polynesian people. Let us pray together:

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Path III: Exclaiming the Divine Creative

Bringing Words to Life Genesis 11:1-9 Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan & Rev. Dr.
Shannon Smythe

This is a Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

All creation is a word of God.

All creation speaks volumes of God.

Sermonizing

Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

Making Something New: An Actions for All Ages

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

This week's theme for worship is Glorious Diversity. At the heart of it, this means that we are all called to do great things for God's people and use our gifts to create good in the world. This week, I invite each of you to reflect on the goodness you can share with others and to claim that creative spirit as part of your identity! Today's Action for All Ages is an option activity to make Paper Flowers at home. At the end of your bulletin you will find directions for how to roll paper flowers of different colors, each one representing a special little creation for everyone to enjoy. We'd love to see what you design and include it in next week's Back of the Bulletin.. You can send photos by text or email to our Communications Administrators, Melissa Schrock, at 302-249-7483 or melissa@impressionwebservices.com

Blessing Our Offering

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Path IV: Embodying Compassion and Power

Holding On

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Go For It!

Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

Benediction Song

“You Shall Go Out with Joy”

GTG 80

Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Ushers: Suzi Berry & Linda Crowe

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Musician: Brad Ucci

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

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:

Jay Carlson, Clare MacDonald's son-in-law, and father of 2 young daughters, suffered a blood clot in his head. He has been released from hospital and is slowly recovering with the help of neuro physical therapy.

Ed Carter (102) 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.

Linda Book continues her battle with multiple myeloma cancer.

Chuck Burton, extended family of Lois Rayner, is dealing with issues related to cancer.

Pauline Cottingham is doing well, despite the general decline in her health.

Peter Culin, Sue Culin's brother-in-law, is undergoing chemotherapy.

Rob Harkins, son of Bob and Claudene Harkins, is fighting a serious, resistant foot infection. Bob and Claudene have returned to Florida to support him.

Honey Hill, Sue Cullin's step-niece, is awaiting the results of a biopsy.

Lacey Meade, Betty Pratt's daughter, completed her last round of chemotherapy.

Betty Pratt is feeling better, though she has some memory issues.

Greg Solt, friend of Karen and Glenn Dixon, who has a mass on his pancreas. He and his family appreciate our prayers for their courage, as they confront the diagnosis of pancreatic and liver cancer.

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

John Witmer is recovering at home following heart surgery, and 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



DIY Paper Flowers

Supplies

Colored paper stock

Scissors

Pencil (larger flower) *or* Q-tip (smaller flower)

Step 1 Draw a spiral on any size square inch paper (the bigger the square, the bigger the flower.) If you feel confident in your skills, just go ahead and cut out a spiral shape without drawing the spiral from your square sized paper.

Step 2 With a pencil or Q-tip, roll the end of the paper towards you until you reach the end of the spiral. Be sure to keep a tight roll.

Step 3 When you've reached the end, gently pull out the pencil or q-tip. You're done!



Fall is coming . . .

To kick off the fall season, Pastor Shannon and the worship committee have planned for an 8-week worship series called "I've Been Meaning to Ask . . ." that will help the congregation to cultivate curiosity, courage, and connection.

Designed by [A Sanctified Art](#), this series helps churches focus intentionally on community--how to build it, repair it, and sustain it. The main objective of this series is to cultivate courageous conversations—and to keep having them, even if we need to pause.

The leading question, “I’ve been meaning to ask...” conveys intentionality, warmth, curiosity, and consideration. In essence, this question also implies the following statements: “I’ve been thinking about you and I’ve been wanting to check in...” "You’ve been on my mind..." "I haven’t known how to have this conversation, but I’m getting started with a question.”

The four questions that we will explore together over 8 weeks (September 5th-October 24th) aren't surface level.

1. Where are you from?
2. Where does it hurt?
3. What do you need?
4. Where do we go from here?

Instead, they invite us to share our pain and seek ways to care for one another. We pray that through vulnerability and authenticity these conversations lead us to glimpse hope, joy, and beauty and show us the simple power of asking unassuming questions. It will remind us that courage is rooted in the heart.

As a way to invite deep engagement with this series, Westminster is making available two accompanying resources for the series:

1. Study Journal Inspired by the four guiding questions, this study journal offers: scripture, commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, and prompts for reflection and conversation.

2. Conversation Cards Inspired by the four guiding questions, this is a stack of 48 conversation cards can be used in a variety of settings and groups as they are designed to help you create deeper connection with others.

-----**CUT HERE**-----

Instructions: Please choose no more than one item per person. Please respond by Monday, August 30th.

Your name _____

If you are responding for another in your family, please indicate here _____

____ Study Journal Booklet

____ Conversation Cards

____ Opt Out