

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 22nd, 2021  
8:30am Communion Service



Photo by [James Coleman](#) 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.

## **\*Call to Worship**

The eyes if the Lord are in the righteous;  
**God's ears are open to their cry.**

Let us worship the One who clothes us in strength  
**And quenches our souls with mercy.**

## **\*Morning Song of Praise**

*All the People that on Earth Do Dwell* (verses 1 & 3)

GTG 385

### **Confession**

Holy God, Maker of all

**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

**Have mercy on us.**

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

### **Silence**

Before God, with the people of God,

I confess to my brokenness:

To the ways I wound my life,

The lives of others, and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God,**

**We confess to our brokenness:**

**To the ways we wound our lives,**

**The lives of others, and the life of the world.**

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

**Amen.**

### **Prayer for God's Help**

Move among us, O God; give us life:

**Let your people rejoice in you.**

Make our hearts clean within us:

**Renew us in mind and in spirit.**

Give us again the joy of your help:

**With your Spirit of Freedom sustain us.**

And now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

**Our Loving God, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. . . .**

### **Affirmation**

With the whole church

**We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere

**We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation

**We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

### **Psalm & Reflection of the Day**

Alleluia: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**Glory to you, Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier. Now and forever. Amen.**

Holy Reading: *Psalm 100*

Acclaim YHWH with joy, all the earth!

Service YHWH with gladness!

Enter into God's presence with a joyful song!

Know that YHWH is God!

YHWH made us, and we belong to the Creator; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise!

Give thanks to God! Bless God's Name!

For YHWH is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Silent Reflection: How is God good to you? For what do you give God thanks?  
What would it be like, and how would it affect your whole day, if you started with a little prayer of thanksgiving before entering your day?

\*Praying with Body, Heart, and Soul:

My heart sings, my body dances,

*Inhale: Feel joy and lightness in your being. Smile*

My spirit lifts up to you.

*Exhale: Let your exhale come from your heart and let it flow up through your upraised arm.*

With joy, O God, I greet you.

*Inhale: Open your arms and welcome God's love into your heart.*

Your presence brings me delight

*Exhale: bend your elbows and smile widely.*

You alone are my God.

*Inhale: Look up to the one and only God in all eternity.*

For it is you who keep me alive

*Exhale: As you bend over and breathe out, remember your body is of the earth.*

Your compassion sustains me.

*Inhale: Create space in your heart and inhale compassion.*

O my soul, surrender now.

*Exhale: Bow your head down in total surrender.*

Your goodness lasts for ever;

*Inhale: Raise your heart. Feel the goodness of God.*

Your steadfast love endures evermore.

*Exhale: Relax, smile, and feel your body resting in the palm of God's hand.*

Sitting with the Divine Presence: Breathe in deeply, lift your chin slightly, and expand your chest. As you slowly breathe out, smile. Repeat breathing like this until you feel relaxed but alert. Now, imagine being at a party given by the Almighty One. Visualize it to the smallest details. Fill your senses with the event: the food, the music, the people. Talk with, laugh with, dance and sing with everyone. Then seek out the Host and ask to dance with the Beloved One. Stay in the party, rejoicing with the Divine, as long as you want.

Living Your Prayer: Consider how you might make plans to take a friend or family member to a comedy show or a musical. Or let a child teach you how to play and laugh. Have a good time.

Contemporary Psalm:

Light spirited, light hearted,

**These I become through your love.**

When I'm down, depressed, and sad,

**Without fail, you bring me light and joy.**

At sunrise, you breathe into me a new day,

**Saying, "Go, and sin no more."**

My Lord, help me reach your dwelling place.

**For I only want to sing you songs of praise,**

**And to bless your name now and forever.**

*Closing Prayer: May God's love, peace, and joy be the source of all my thoughts, words, and deeds today. Amen.*

### **Offering Our Resources & Lives**

Just as we have engaged our bodies in praying the Psalm for today, so we can steward our financial resources, gifts from God to us, as part of our full-bodied worship of God. May we open our lives and our resources generously to God for the work of God in this church and community. Your pledges and offerings may be given securely online or by cash or check in the baskets as you enter and exit the church.

## **The Story of the Last Supper**

*(All are invited to stand for the story, then sit for the prayer)*

Let us pray:

**Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made.**

**May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch, in all bread, all matter.**

**We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.**

The Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you,

**And also with you.**

Life up your hearts,

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God,

**It is right to give both thanks and praise.**

Sanctus and Benedictus:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Consecration:

### **Communion**

*Communion will be taken at your seat using prepackaged communion elements.*

*Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan will facilitate this process.*

Prayer after Communion:

Sharing of the Peace: (all are invited to stand)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.** (Exchange waves and smiles with your siblings in Christ.)

## **Blessing & Dismissal**

May the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go. And the blessing of God be upon you.

**The blessing of the God of life.**

The blessing of Christ be upon you,

**The blessing of the Christ of love.**

The blessing of the Spirit be upon you,

**The blessing of the Spirit of grace.**

The blessing of the Trinity be upon you.

**Now and for evermore. Amen.**

Let us go into the world rejoicing. It is Christ who goes before us.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Ushers: Lois Rayner & Charlotte Jacobs

Musician: Maribeth Dockety

Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe & Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan

Liturgy used in today's service was taken from *Iona Abbey: Worship Book* (Wild Goose Publications, 2001); *Praying with the Body: Bringing the Psalms to Life* by Roy DeLeon (Paraclete Press, 2009); *Call to Worship: Lectionary Aids for 2020-2021, Year B Vol. 54.1* (Office of Theology and Worship of the PC(USA), 2020) .

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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:*

**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 diagnoses 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](mailto:cmarshjr@verizon.net)**





## 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_ Study Journal Booklet

\_\_\_\_ Conversation Cards

\_\_\_\_ Opt Out