

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 15th, 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**

God is the source of Wisdom

**The fount of eternal life**

Let us listen for the wisdom of God.

**And worship the One whose words shape the world.**

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

*God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!*

*(verses 1 & 4)*

*GTG 365*

### **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 97:6-7, 9-12*

The heavens proclaim your justice,

And all the peoples see your glory.

All who worship images are put to shame,

Who make their boast in worthless idols;

all gods bow down before you.

For you, YHWH, are Most High over all the earth;  
You are exalted far above all gods.

YHWH, you love those who hate evil;  
Preserve the lives of your faithful ones;  
And deliver them from the hands of the wicked.  
Light dawns for the just,  
And joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in YHWH, you just,  
And give praise to God's holy Name!

Silent Reflection: How would you define "worthless idols"? What "worthless idols" in your life can you let go of to allow God's light to shine in your heart?

\*Praying with Body, Heart, and Soul:

Most powerful, awesome God.

*Inhale: Feel God's awesome power as you stretch upward.*

Let me behold your glory.

*Exhale: Quietly praise God for the sources of joy in your life right now.*

My eyes seek only you,

*Inhale: Open your arms. Keep the eyes of faith open and ready for God.*

Not temporal, passing pleasures.

*Exhale: Bow your head and ask for guidance in your choices.*

Your love is for all;

*Inhale: Absorb the words and feel for those who feel unloved.*

For saints and sinners alike,

*Exhale: Hands on your back, keep the heart open.*

Life everlasting you offer

*Inhale: Open your heart on your inhale. Receive the One who is life everlasting.*

To those who surrender to you.

*Exhale: Bow with total reverence to the Ruler over all.*

You bring joy to those who love,

*Inhale: Breathe in God's love and happiness.*

And peace to those who live with kindness.

*Exhale: Feel God's kindness cover you like a soft blanket.*

Sitting with the Divine Presence: Sitting silently, be attentive to the presence of the Holy One. Calm your mind as you step into the gospel story of the rich young man. Imagine yourself as that young person. When you found Jesus, you knelt down and you said to him, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" His answer was, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." This answer made you sad, for you have many possessions. Jesus, feeling your disappointment, then put his hands on your shoulders. And you listened attentively to what he had to say. Stay in the scene for a while. Then give thanks to the One who loved us with his life.

Living Your Prayer: This week, take a piece of paper and create two columns: Necessary Possessions and Worthless Idols. Fill those two columns as best you can. Pray for guidance and strength to take steps to start following Jesus.

Contemporary Psalm:

Shine your Light, Divine One,

**Never let up, never give up.**

Toward darkness disguised as light I run,

**Falsely thinking that's where you are.**

Then you snatch me from its grip,

**And your glorious light dawns once more.**

Keep shining, O God, stay radiant,

**Light my way back to your loving heart.**

*Closing Prayer: In your heart, sing a few lines from a favorite love song and direct it to God.*

## **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. Shannon Smythe 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

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

\* \* \* \* \*

## **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)**