

Westminster Presbyterian Church

August 15th, 2021 | 10:00am

Live Streaming | In Person

Sacred Earth, Sacred Work: *Sacred Creative Vocation*



Photo by Irham Bahtiar 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. Shannon Smythe

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.

As people who worship an incarnate God, we recognize we, too, are spirit in flesh. We give thanks for the beauty of creation and our place in it. I invite you to take a quarter turn to your right.

ALL: Spirit draw near

We give thanks for the continual dawning of each new day.

ALL: We give thanks for new beginnings made possible by our Creator.

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

ALL: Spirit draw near

We give thanks for the light of day. The sun makes life possible on earth.

All: We give thanks for the gifts God has given to us. May we share them with energy and passion.

I invite you to make another quarter turn.

ALL: Spirit draw near

We face this place of the setting sun.

All: We give thanks for patterns of letting go.

Leader: I invite you to make another quarter turn.

ALL: Spirit draw near

We give thanks for the nighttime with its beauty of stars and moon.

All: May we find our times of rest and ease.

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

As we seek to discover the core of our own call from God,

All: Teach us to live as spirit in flesh like Jesus. Amen.

**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

"Here I Am Lord"

GTG, #69

Praying

Faith Duncan

Creator God,

You who breathed your breath into us,

Inspire us to be who you have created us to be

So that we might offer our best selves to benefit a world

That so desperately needs support, hope, life and joy.

We praise you for nudging us into the future you have created for each one of us.

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

Path II: Befriending the Dark Places

Listening

Faith Duncan

Dance, when you're broken open.

Dance, if you've torn the bandage off.

Dance in the middle of the fighting.

Dance in your blood.

Dance, when you're perfectly free.

Rumi

Letting Go and Holding with Love

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

. . . 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.

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 translated by Mark Berry, a young pastor of a church in the UK called "safespace." Let us pray together:

O Breathing Life,

Your Name shines everywhere!

Release a space to plant your Presence here.

Imagine Your possibilities now.

Embody your desire in every light and form.

Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.

Untie the knots of failure binding us,

As we release the strands we hold of others' faults.

Help us not forget our Source.

Yet free us from not being in the Present.

From you arises every Vision, Power and Song

From gathering to gathering.

Amen

Path III: Exclaiming the Divine Creative

Bringing Words to Life Isaiah 6: 1-8 Faith Duncan & Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe
together with the congregation

In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple. Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about. They shouted to each other, saying:

**"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of heavenly forces!
All the earth is filled with God's glory!"**

The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke. I said, "Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the Lord of heavenly forces!" Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth and said,

"See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt has departed, and your sin is removed."

Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?" I said, **"I'm here; send me!"**

This is a Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

All creation is a word of God.

All creation speaks volumes of God.

Sermonizing "Be Careful What You Volunteer For" Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Making Something New: An Actions for All Ages

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

“Naming Our Gifts”: We are all called to do great things for God’s people and use our gifts to create good in the world. This week, we reflect on the goodness we can share with one another and claim that creative spirit as part of our identity!

Blessing Our Offering

Faith Duncan

Path IV: Embodying Compassion and Power

Holding On

Faith Duncan

Go For It!

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Benediction Song

“You Shall Go Out with Joy”

GTG #80

Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Ushers: Marylea & Phil Franz

Liturgist: Faith Duncan

Musician: Brad Ucci

Preacher: 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 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

