

Westminster Presbyterian Church

August 29th, 2021 | 10:00am

Live Streaming | In Person

Sacred Earth, Sacred Work: *“Healing Relationships”*

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

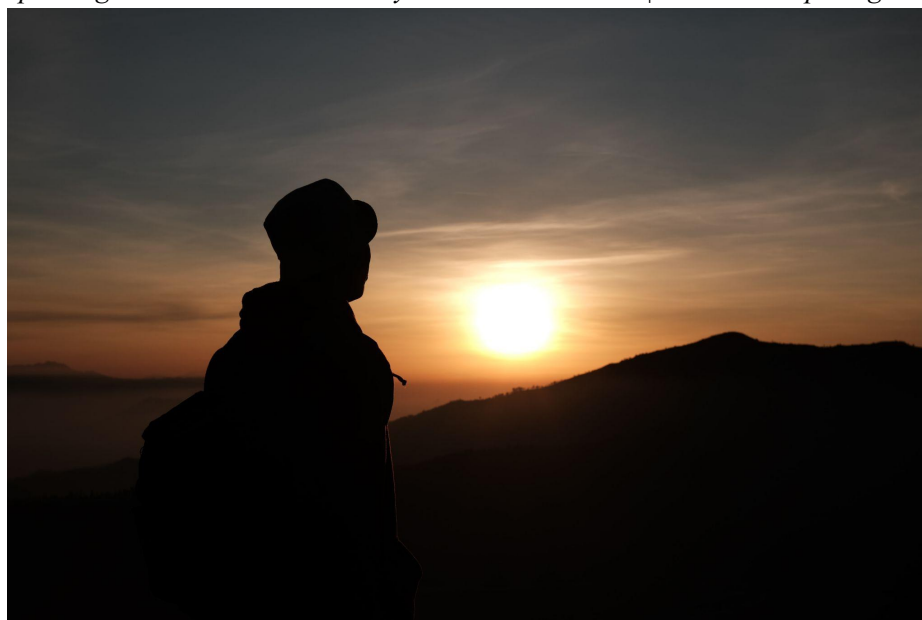


Photo by [Bennett Dungan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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

Leaning On the Everlasting Arms

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.**

Let us now celebrate and deepen our bond with God as Creator. Make a quarter turn to the right.

ALL: We are awed by the sacred wisdom of the unfolding universe. It surrounds us with beauty, growth, and revelation. It has brought us, artfully, to this moment in time. We have come to give thanks and praise.

ALL: Spirit draw near

Let us now celebrate and deepen our bond with God as Spirit. Make a quarter turn and face the back of the sanctuary.

ALL: We are inspired by the waves of encouragement and whispers of possibilities the Spirit has given throughout time. It stirs our souls and moves us towards deeper connection to life. We have come to be moved once again.

ALL: Spirit draw near

Let us now celebrate and deepen our bond with God as Christ. Make another quarter turn.

ALL: We are heartened by the healing essence of Christ throughout creation. It has restored us from brokenness. It has brought reconciliation where we thought none was possible. It has restored relationships where we thought all was lost. We have come to be transformed.

ALL: Spirit draw near

Let us now celebrate and deepen our bond with God as community. Make a final quarter turn to face the front of the chancel, drawing your attention to the light of the Christ candle in our midst.

All: We are lifted up in the presence of our siblings. We take joy in a spiritual integrity we cannot create on our own. We have come to share the sacred love that surrounds us, the love that created us; the love that holds us together as one sacred family through the vast and eternal love of the Cosmic Christ.

ALL: Spirit draw near.

**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

"For the Healing of the Nations"

GTG #346

Praying

Clare MacDonald

Connecting God,

You who has woven us together with all of creation,
open our eyes to see that we cannot survive in isolation
so that we might be motivated to turn toward the other,

and work for the wholeness of all life.

We praise you as the healer of all hurt, the repairer of all brokenness.

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

Path II: Befriending the Dark Places

Listening

Clare MacDonald

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.

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 the prayer as translated by Dominican nuns in Kansas. We will pray, alternating sides.

Side 1: Our Father

Side 2: **Our Mother**

1: Who art in heaven

2: Who are in all the earth

1: Hallowed be thy name

2: Holy is your truth

1: Thy kingdom come

2: May your wisdom come

1: Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

2: Your circle be one uniting heaven and earth

1: Give us this day our daily bread
2: Give us today a nurturing spirit
1: And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
2: Heal through us as we ourselves are healed
1: Lead us not into temptation
2: Lead us into Fullness of life
1: But deliver us from evil
2: And liberate all that is good
1: For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory
2: For the Wisdom, Presence and the Goodness are Yours
All: Now and forever Amen.

Path III: Exclaiming the Divine Creative

Bringing Words to Life 1 John 4:7-21 Clare MacDonald and 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. Shannon Smythe

Making Something New: An Actions for All Ages

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

In this final week of the series, we are called to bring healing to our relationships with one another, within ourselves, and with the earth and all its inhabitants. Get help, if you need it, putting a friendship bracelets on your wrist as a sign of being “bound in friendship with all the earth.”

Blessing Our Offering

Clare MacDonald

Path IV: Embodying Compassion and Power

Holding On

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

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: Nancy Brock & Bonnie Ekas

Liturgist: Clare MacDonald

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.

Lib Macnab is battling bronchitis.

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, is battling 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



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