

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 29th, 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**

We gather to worship in the presence of God,
As if we stood on God's holy hill.

We gather to worship as children of God,
As if we are standing in the waters of grace.

We gather to worship the living God,
for God is here among us.

***Morning Song of Praise**

Bless the Lord (sing 4 times)

GTG 544

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 103:1, 8, 13-16*

You are tender and compassionate, YHWH-

Slow to anger, and always loving;

As tenderly as parents treat your worshipers, YHWH!

For you know what we are made of-

You remember that we're nothing but dust.

We last no longer than grass,

Live no longer than a wildflower;

One gust of wind and we're gone,

Never to be seen again.

Silent Reflection: What positive thoughts do you have about mortality?

How can you compassionately deal with your negative thoughts about death, both your death and the death of dear ones?

*Praying with Body, Heart, and Soul:

My soul blesses you. Holy One.

Inhale: Swing one hand sky ward and follow it with your eyes.

All my being bless your Holy Name.

Exhale: Exhale saying "Holy is your name."

Receive your prodigal child;

Inhale: Remember a time when you acted in childish and unloving ways.

See Abba welcoming you back.

Your love calls and brings me home.

Exhale: Let God's love gently guide you and raise your eyes to the heavens.

My whole life is like the day.

Inhale: Feel the sun shining from within you.

It begins and soon will end.

Exhale: Surrender as you breathe out, accepting our mortality.

Like a flower it blooms,

Inhale: Raise your arms and let your fingers open like a flower.

Then it withers, and is no more.

Exhale: Slowly wilt into a lifeless doll

From dust you made me,

Inhale: Feel the God's breath giving you life as you lift your heart to our Creator.

Soon to dust I return.

Exhale: Let go of all your worldly concerns and possessions. Rest in God's peace.

Sitting with the Divine Presence: Sitting still and comfortably, breathe in and out slowly and deeply. Savor each breath, feeling thankful for the privilege of being alive. For a few moments, imagine yourself sitting with the Divine One after your death. What do you talk about? What questions do you ask? Gently, return to your breath and bring your awareness back to your body. Feel this miraculous life coursing through your veins, through every cell of your body. Then open your eyes to a world renewed by the Holy Spirit on every breath you take. Give thanks to God.

Living Your Prayer: Celebrate being alive today with your actions: try sending flowers to someone, baking or cooking for someone, or emailing a blessing to a friend.

Contemporary Psalm:

Blessed are you, source of my being

Praise to you for your gift of life.

Through your love, I was born;

Because of your love, I live;

And into your love, I will die.

You are love and compassion, O God.

For despite my forgetful nature,

You call me back tirelessly, into your gracious and steadfast love.

Closing Prayer: Ring a bell three times and follow the sound until it disappears into silence.

Stay with the silence for a few more moments 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. 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

Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

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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.

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