

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 8th, 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**

O Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together.

We sought the Lord , and God answered us. God delivered us from all our fears.

O Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Who reigns in majesty above the mighty waters. Happy are those who take refuge in

God.

***Morning Song of Praise**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

(vss. 2-3)

GTG 267

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 95:1-2,6-9*

Come, let us sing joyfully to God! Raise a shout to our rock, our deliverance!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, and sing our praises with joy.

Come, let us bow down in worship; Let us kneel before YHWH, our Maker.

For you are our God, and we are the people you shepherd, the flock under your care.

If only you would hear God's voice today!

"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the days of Massah in the desert,
Where your ancestors tested me; they tested me even though they had seen my works.

Silent Reflection: Have you been listened to so deeply that sharing your story felt so natural, so effortless? How did that feel for you? Is there someone in your life who can benefit from your gift to them of good listening?

*Praying with Body, Heart, and Soul:

O come, sing to the Holy One

Inhale: Raise your arms in adoration.

Praise to you, my Rock, my Savior.

Exhale: With reverence, bow in the presence of the Almighty one.

With joy, thanks, and praise to you

Inhale: One hand on your heart, raise the other in praise.

Your presence calls me to love.

Exhale: With hands pressed to your heart, reverently bow to the Divine Presence.

You alone are my God

Inhale: Raise your arms in praise to the Lord, our Maker.

Through your love, I came to be.

Exhale: Bow and give praise to the Lord.

Soften and open my heart.

Inhale: Lift your head and open your arms, offering your heart to God.

Let me listen to your divine voice.

Exhale: Rest your head in your hands. Listen for the sound of God's Spirit flowing through you.

Strengthen my belief in you.

Inhale: Raise one hand toward God and look up with loving eyes.

All of creation proves your majesty.

Exhale: Bow, expressing your gratitude completely.

Sitting with the Divine Presence: Sitting still, breathe in and out slowly and deeply. Relax your body and calm your mind. As you become more relaxed, imagine it is dusk and you are joining a large gathering of seekers of the Divine. You see people coming in from all directions, each one with a lighted candle like you. You look for your soul friends and you find them. You hear a bell signaling the beginning of the procession toward the “rock of our salvation.” With candle in hand, you start walking. Then you hear “O come let us sing to the Lord ” and all around you, in unison, a song rises like the flames of all the candles around you. A “joyful noise” surrounds you. Finally you reach the house of God. After the joyful sounds of the bell, you hear, “O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!” Give thanks to God, the rock of our salvation.

Living Your Prayer: This week, during a regular, ordinary conversation with anyone, practice attentive listening. Give them the last word, too, whatever the topic.

Contemporary Psalm:

Make a joyful noise, all you people.

Let us all sing, sing to the Lord.

Let us gather ourselves together.

Let us offer our whole beings to our Maker.

With the ear of our hearts let us listen

Be still, be quiet, and heed the voice within.

Chant a sacred word or a short phrase (like Alleluia, Praise the Lord, My Lord and My God, Love, Joy) with your breath over and over again for a few moments.

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. Macfie 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.

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Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Ushers: Silvia Ritchie

Musician: Maribeth Dockety

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

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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) .

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:

Ed Carter - At age 102, Ed 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 - for continued strength to fight the side effects of multiple myeloma cancer.

Chuck Burton - extended family of Lois Rayner, dealing with Cancer issues.

Pauline Cottingham – is doing well, despite the general decline in her health. She is grateful for our prayers.

Peter Culin – for Sue Culin's brother-in-law, as he continues with chemotherapy.

Lacey Meade – daughter of Betty Pratt, is home recovering from her surgery. Prayers for continued healing and recovery.

Pat Mossel – Her shoulder injury has healed, and she is feeling much better. Thanks for your prayers.

Betty Pratt - swelling in her legs greatly reduced as she undergoes massage therapy.

Janet Waugaman – Sally Waugaman's daughter, continues to lose mobility due to Multiple System Atrophy.

John Witmer - John is recovering at home following heart surgery, and he 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**