

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 18th, 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**

Come as you are to worship the Lord.

Let us bring our songs, our prayers, and our worries.

For the Lord is our shepherd, and we shall not want.

The Lord is our redeemer, and we shall be free.

***Morning Song of Praise**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

(vss. 1-2)

GTG #611

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 32:1, 6, 10-11*

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Silent Reflection: What inspires and motivates you to keep going at times of distress?
What enables you to maintain an open heart, even in times of difficulty?

*Praying with Body, Heart, and Soul:

Blessed are you, O God.

Inhale: Join your hands in prayer, blessing the Almighty.

You are kind and merciful.

Exhale: Feel the presence of lovingkindness in your heart.

Thoughts of you clear my mind.

Inhale: Open your heart. Let your prayer rise up to God.

Your mercy lightens up my heart.

Exhale: Feel God's peace surround you.

When trouble comes,

Inhale: Breathe in God's strength in times of weakness.

I know you hear my prayer.

Exhale: Bow your head and pray for God's help.

Though my selfish thoughts torment me,

Inhale: Raise your hands as fists, rebelling against harmful and unloving thoughts.

Your faithful love brings me comfort.

Exhale: Bring your praying hands to your heart as in prayer as you bow to God.

My heart is glad and filled with joy.

Inhale: With joy in your heart, give thanks to God.

My heart rests in your love.

Exhale: Let your heart rest in God.

Sitting with the Divine Presence: With your eyes gently closed, feel the breath moving in and out of your nostrils. As you sit, be as still as you can, like a mountain. Notice that above this mountain loom dark clouds, blocking the sunlight. As you breathe in and out, imagine your exhale slowly blowing these clouds away. As the clouds part,

spacious blue sky fills your view. You, the mountain, are bathed in the glorious light and life-giving warmth of the sun. Let the Radiant One's steadfast love surround you with gladness and rejoicing. Spend some moments in the light of the Divine Presence.

Living Your Prayer: This week, with humor and forgiveness, look past your own and other people's imperfections. Look around you and simply feel the "love that surrounds those who trust in the Lord." Spread joy through a radiant happy face and a positive body language.

Contemporary Psalm: O Merciful and Compassionate One, your faithful love surrounds me always.

When I offend you, always you call me back with love.

Armor me now with that love, O God, shield me from the greedy fires of my desires.

Come quickly, O Loving God, save me and let me savor your Love.

In the quiet of your heart, sing a short Scripture phrase like "Rejoice and be glad" or "Shout for joy to the Lord." Repeat this song as often as you wish this week.

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. Pastor Shannon 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: Charlotte Jacobs and Lois Ann Rayner
Musician: Steve Johnson
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:

Jay Carlson, Clare MacDonald's son-in-law, and father of 2 young daughters- suffered a blood clot in his head- He is in the ICU. Pray for courage for the family and wisdom for the physicians caring for him.

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.

Honey Hill - Sue Culin's step-niece, as she undergoes, and awaits the results of, a biopsy.

Lacey Meade - daughter of Betty Pratt, completed her last round of chemotherapy and is doing well.

Betty Pratt - is feeling better, but she has some memory issues.

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**