

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 4th, 2021
8:30am Communion Service



Photo by [Debby Hudson](#) 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**

The world belongs to God,
The earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful,
To live together in unity.

Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent
These stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

***Morning Song of Praise**

"Come, Live in the Light," GTG #749

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 8:1a, 3-9*

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Silent Reflection: Where in nature do you most experience the Divine Presence? How does taking care of the environment glorify God?

*Praying with Body, Heart, and Soul:

O Lord, source of my being

Inhale: Feel the energy from your feet to your lifted heart.

Your majesty fills the earth.

Exhale: Marvel at the magnificence of God's creation.

I see the sun, the moon, the stars,

Inhale: Look up, and soak in God's eternal light.

And I wonder: Who am I?

Exhale: Humble yourself in the presence of the Almighty One.

You entrusted to me your creation.

Inhale: Unconditionally welcome all God's creatures.

Planet earth and everything within it.

Exhale: Bending forward, reverently acknowledge all God's creatures as family.

Wonderful creatures on land.

Inhale: Feel the presence of all people and animals and creatures living on land.

Magnificent birds of the air.

Exhale: "Spread your wings." Lighten up your heart, let it soar, delight, and fly.

And all the fish of the sea.

Inhale: Breathe in and swim with all the colorful fish of the sea.

How majestic is your creation.

Exhale: Celebrate God's gift of life.

Sitting with the Divine Presence: Sitting comfortably, with your back straight, eyes gently closed, notice your breath. Feel it moving in and out of the nostrils. As you breathe in and out, imagine yourself as an unfinished marble statue, a work in progress. Be aware of the Divine Sculptor carving out anything that keeps you from being the masterpiece God designed you to be. Feel the Creator's loving hands, sometimes gentle, though at times they feel rough, shaping you into the image and likeness of the One who created you. Stay with the Divine Sculptor for a while longer.

Living Your Prayer: Take a contemplative walk on the beach or in a nearby wooded park or a wilderness sanctuary. Like a little child, be awed, be amazed, and be fascinated by God's majestic creation.

Contemporary Psalm: O Holy One, source of all goodness, truth, and beauty, I long to look into your face and lose myself in your gaze.

You blessed me with life and free will, and placed within my reach every thing I need.

Help me to uphold the spirit of your creation, that all may celebrate the beauty and love you offer.

Blessed are you, O Creator of all existence, masterful are the works of your hands.

Sit in silence, be still. Listen to the rhythmic beat of your heart. Smile and feel the Holy Spirit flowing within you as you breathe in and out.

Offering Our Resources & Lives

"My soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you." How down-to-earth the psalmist is; how human in his relationship with God. His physical and spiritual worlds are intimately bound together. 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 Genie Hindall

Musician: Sally Waugaman

Preacher: 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) and *Praying with the Body: Bringing the Psalms to Life* by Roy DeLeon (Paraclete Press, 2009).

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.

Lois Baldwin - prayers as she recovers from surgery on her broken wrist.

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 - fell and injured her arm and is experiencing pain. Also, her general health is declining.

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 - Experienced a break in her scapula (shoulder blade) which was spontaneous and due to her brittle bones from osteoporosis. She is experiencing a great deal of pain, so please pray for healing.

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.

Praises

Sarah Altavater for her new job

**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**