

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

## May 16, 2021



**A Note from Pastor Shannon:** In this particular time, let us be guided by our faith to "love our neighbor as ourselves" as some of us enter into the sanctuary for communal worship again.

1. As we wear a mask, fully covering our nose and mouth, while in the building, let us do it as a gesture of care to continue to protect others, even as we protect ourselves.

2. Let us sing loudly in our hearts and quietly with our lips, mouthing the words or humming to the hymns. In this way, we protect all who come to worship. Let us remember that not everyone who will come to worship with us on Sunday is allowed to receive the vaccine (anyone under 16 years of age). Let us protect our young families, and anyone not vaccinated, by not singing aloud, along with the soloist.

3. Let us be willing to learn new routines around the offering. While we dedicate our offerings to God during worship, we will not be passing the plate but invite you to give online or drop your offering/pledge in a basket on your way out.

4. Let us honor the science that has told us that the two biggest factors that lead to infection are "time + exposure." Therefore, let us practice masking and social distancing, at all times, while in the building. Let us greet one another in masked and socially distanced ways. Let us allow the ushers to help us exit the building safely, by row, at the end of the service and save our conversations until we are outside.

5. When we partake of communion together, using the prepackaged communion elements at our seat, let us keep our masks on, only moving them down to eat the bread and drink the cup, and then putting our mask back on, again as a way to protect all who are joined together for communion.

# "Gone Up with a Shout: Clap Your Hands"

Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Sunday)

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

## **GATHERING OUR STRENGTH**

**Threshold**

*Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe and Nancy Brock*

*Leader:* As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples, he opens their minds and blesses them. The result after he ascends is their return to Jerusalem with great joy and a desire for continually worshipping and blessing God in the temple. What happens when the "eyes of OUR hearts are enlightened?" We know the hope that we have been called to. As we wait for the Spirit with hope, we celebrate with abandon because we have no other ruler than the One who reigns with love and justice.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

*Liturgist:* Dancing changes us: it transforms us and brings us to life, awakens our senses. Imagine the dreams and the heartbeat and the life stirring in Jesus and his disciples as he readied them for this next chapter of ministry.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,  
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.  
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,  
Dare to dance again!**

*Leader:* This is the call!

Ready yourselves for new life.

**All: We lift up our heads to meet the day.**

Get ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.

**All: We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.**

Even when rain sets in, open those umbrellas of gratitude and set out anyway.

**For we are called to dance again!**

## Opening Song of Praise

*"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus" GTG 260*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne,  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone!  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how.  
Through the cloud from sight received him,  
when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts for get his promise:  
I am with you ever more?"

Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer,  
hear our plea where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your foot-stool,  
heaven your throne. As within the veil you entered,  
robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

### **Prayer**      *Nancy Brock*

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –  
Help us to put on our dancing shoes  
so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.  
Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –  
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ.  
Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

### **Affirming the Peace Among Us**

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

**And also with you!**

You are invited to turn to the people around you  
and wave as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

# LEARNING THE STEPS

## A Story for All Ages

*(Children's Time)*

"We offer thanks  
**we offer thanks**  
for dreamers true  
**for dreamers true**  
for all they are  
**for all they are**  
and all they do  
**and all they do.**  
Let us become  
**let us become**

dreamers too  
**dreamers too**  
and bring new life  
**and bring new life**  
to me and you  
**to me and you!**  
Amen!  
**Amen!**

## A Story for the Ages

**First Reading: Psalm 47: 1-6**

*Nancy Brock*

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great Sovereign over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our Sovereign, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

## Sounds of Resurrection

"People Need the Lord" by Glenn Pruitt and Judy Moore

**Second Reading: Luke 24: 44-53**

*Nancy Brock*

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

And see, I am sending upon you what Abba, God, promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God

## **Sermon**

*Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe*

"A Transitional Moment"

## **Dancing for All We're Worth THE BODY MOVES IN RESPONSE**

### **Prayers of the People**

*Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe*

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,  
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,  
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

*Leader:* For the beauty of the world in all its diversity, we give you thanks, O God.

*Leader: Let us pray together...*

*People:* **May our gratitude to you fill our days.**

*Leader:* We need your healing, O Holy One, for our troubled planet, for our nation, for all who are struggling in body, mind, relationships, and spirit.

We remember those who are suffering...

*Leader: Let us pray together...*

*People:* **Come, O God, and restore our lives.**

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,  
following Christ in a life resurrected,  
teach me to act with compassion and justice,  
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

*Leader:* Be with each of us now.

May the dance of your Spirit ever call us  
to engage with you and with the needs around us.

Lead us; guide us; surround and fill us.

*Leader: Let us pray together...*  
**People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,  
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,  
teach me to hope in the day of your coming,  
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Offering Our Resources and our Energy** *Nancy Brock*

Next week is the last week of our Easter Season series, for this season ends with Pentecost, when the flames of the spirit danced within all people. We are so grateful for the ways in which you have continued throughout this difficult time of being separated. You have continued to support and give life and movement to the ministries of this church. You are the hands and feet of Christ now in the world. You are invited to give your offering online or in a basket on your way out.

## **STEPPING OUT**

### **Song for Stepping Out**

*"I Cannot Dance, O Love" to the tune of AURELIA*

I cannot dance, O Love, unless you lead me on.  
I cannot leap in gladness unless you lift me up.  
From love to love we circle, beyond all knowledge grow,  
For when you lead we follow, to new worlds you can show.

Love is the music 'round us, we glide as birds in air,  
entwining, soul and body, your wings hold us with care.  
Your Spirit is the harpist and all your children sing;  
her hands the currents 'round us, your love the golden strings.

O blessed Love, your circling unites us, God and soul.  
From the beginning, your arms embrace and make us whole.  
Hold us in steps of mercy from which you never part,  
that we may know more fully the dances of your heart.

## Benediction

## Postlude

Thank you to those involved in worship today: Ushers: Adele Trout and Nancy Tompkins; Liturgist: Nancy Brock; Musician: Judy Moore; Soloist: Glenn Pruitt  
Sunday School Volunteer(s) Haley Sprague

## *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:*

**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.

**Rev. Kim Brinkmeyer** – continued healing and recovery.

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

**Pauline Cottingham** – dealing with health issues causing her to be uncomfortable

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

**Susan Frost** – Sally Waugaman's daughter, has been placed in Hospice care. Please keep her and the family in your prayers

**Margie Huntzinger's** - brother entered life triumphant. Keep family in close prayer.

**Linda Lingle** - friend of Debbie Magliette, having a Bone marrow transplant for Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

**Lacey Meade** – daughter of Betty Pratt, undergoing chemotherapy at Tunnell Cancer Center.

**Mekenzie** – the 21 year old grandniece of Don & Dee Austin, has a long recovery ahead to heal from broken leg and sprained ankle

**Pat Mossel** – Thanksgiving for feeling more like herself as she continues using a walker.

**Rev. Larry Neumark** - friend of Karen & Glenn Dixon who has a recurrence of prostate cancer.

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

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

**Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask.  
Contact Karen Dixon by phone at 302-858-8968 or email at [k\\_dixon221@hotmail.com](mailto:k_dixon221@hotmail.com).**