

Westminster Presbyterian Church

May 9, 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 allow the liturgist to speak on behalf of the congregation. Liturgy means "the work of the people." For now, instead of joining your voices with the liturgist, allow the liturgist to voice aloud what you are saying in your heart.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

“Who Can Withhold: Break Forth”

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome

GATHERING OUR STRENGTH

Threshold

Sunday School Class, Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe

Sunday School 1: Break forth!

Sunday School 2: Break out!

Sunday School 1: Break-fast!

Sunday School 2: Break dance!

Sunday School 1: Break it up!

Sunday School 2: Break into!

Sunday School 1: Breaker-Breaker!

Sunday School 2 Break-up!

Sunday School 1: Break bread!

Sunday School 2: Take a break!

Sunday School 1: Emergency brake!

Sunday School 2: Whoa!!!

BOTH: What are we talking about?

Sunday School 1: Breaking is risky business...

Sunday School 2: Broken foot

Sunday School 1: Broken lives

Sunday School 2: Broken hearts

Sunday School 1: Broken ties

BOTH: But what are WE talking about?

Sunday School 2: Breaking patterns!

Sunday School 1: Seeing with new eyes...

Sunday School 2: Hearing with new ears...

Sunday School 1: Loving with new hearts...

*Sunday School 2: Breaking the molds that keep us
from moving on, moving out...*

Sunday School 1: Breaking through!

Sunday School 2: Breaking forth!

Leader: Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our awesome God!

Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our loving Christ!

Let all creation break forth into praises of this, our enlivening Spirit!

**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 (from Psalm 98): O sing to the LORD a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the LORD. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy!

**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!

The sun breaks through the clouds.

Sunday School: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

We know that God is at work in our lives.

Sunday School: We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

And when rain comes again, we will open our umbrellas set out anyway.

Sunday School: For we are called to dance again!

***Opening Song of Praise**

"I Come with Joy," verses 1, 4 and 5, GTG 515

I come with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven, loved, and free
The life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
In love laid down for me.

The spirit of the risen Christ,
Unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
Alive among us here.

Together met, together bound,
By all that God has done,
We'll go with joy,
To give the world
the love that makes us one,
The love that makes us one.

Prayer

Silvia Ritchie

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

Let us be open to learn from the dances of others.

Open us to new steps for a new day.

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)

Let's offer a repeat-after-me-prayer:

"We offer thanks	let us become
we offer thanks	dreamers too
for dreamers true	dreamers too
for dreamers true	and bring new life
for all they are	and bring new life
for all they are	to me and you
and all they do	to me and you!
and all they do.	Amen!
Let us become	Amen!

A Story for the Ages

First Reading: John 15:9, 11-15a

Silvia Ritchie

Jesus said, "As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends.

Sounds of Resurrection

"In This Very Room"

words and music by Ron and Carol Harris, ASCAP, Copyright 1979 Ron Harris Music

Second Reading: Acts 10: 44-48 *Silvia Ritchie*

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he

ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Sermon *Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe*
"The Joy of Joining"

THE BODY MOVES IN RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe & Silvia Ritchie

**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...

***Liturgist:* 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...

***Liturgist:* 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...

***Liturgist:* 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 *Silvia Ritchie*

Our joy is complete because the joy of Christ resides within us. We cannot help but break forth. This joy is available to all, realized the community in Acts. The Holy Spirit finds its way even and especially in what feels like unlikely people and places. Everything in creation and everyone has the potential to offer new insight. Let us support ministries that move us forward to new solutions for a new world through our offering today.

STEPPING OUT

***Song for Stepping Out**

"You Shall Go Out with Joy" GTG 80

You shall go with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap,
Will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
The trees of the field will clap their hands;
The trees of the field will clap their hands
While you go out with joy.

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you to those involved in worship today: Ushers: Lois Ann Rayner and Charlotte Jacobs; Liturgist: Sunday School kids & Silvia Ritchie; Musician: Judy Moore; Soloist: Glen Pruitt; Sunday School Volunteer: 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, struggling with side effects from chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer.

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

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.