



Westminster Presbyterian Church

October 10th, 2021 | 10:00am

Live Streaming | In Person

Prayers by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Prelude

Steve Johnson

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

***Call to Worship**

Charlotte Jacobs & congregation

Family of faith, this must be the place.

This is the place for connection and growth,
for community and hope.

This must be the place for questions like,
“Where are you from?” and, “What do you need?” For whispers of: “I’ve been thinking
of you,” and, “I’ve been meaning to ask. . .”

This must be the place, because all belong here. All are welcome here.
All hurt and joy, needs and prayers,
dreams and love, are welcome here.

God is near. Let us worship Holy God.

***Song of Praise**

“We Are One in the Spirit”

Glory to God # 300

We are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity
may one day be restored:

And they'll know we are
Christians by our love,
by our love;
yes, they'll know we are
Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land:

And they'll know we are
Christians by our love,
by our love;
yes, they'll know we are
Christians by our love.

We will work with each other;
we will work side by side;
we will work with each other;
we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity
and save human pride:

And they'll know we are
Christians by our love,
by our love;
yes, they'll know we are
Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus,
God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one:

And they'll know we are
Christians by our love,
by our love;
yes, they'll know we are
Christians by our love.

Call to Confession

Charlotte Jacobs

How many of you have ever had a bad day
and found someone offering you unsolicited advice?
How many of you have ever had a bad week and had someone rush in
with dozens of suggestions for how you might fix things,
as if you hadn't thought of that before?
We have all been there, and we have all done that.
It is part of our humanity.
Our scripture reminds us today that often in the face of hurt, what people really need
is not a list of advice or solutions, but the simple presence of love.
So let us pray to God today, acknowledging that we are works in progress,
and that relationships always come with mistakes and confession. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession | Truth Telling

Charlotte Jacobs & congregation

Gracious God,
sometimes life feels like cooking with flour—
it looks like it should be easy, but we always make a mess.
This is particularly true when it comes to our relationships.
We so desperately long to say the right thing,
to be the right thing, to find the right solution,
that we overstep the line.
Forgive us for assuming the place you fill.
Forgive us for imagining that we, in all our humanity,
could possibly fix all the hurt in this world.
Instead, give us the grace and the strength to stand by our loved ones in their moments
of need to witness their hurt without trying to fix it.
You are God. We are not. Teach us how to be a friend.
Teach us how to ask, “What do you need?”
Teach us how to point to you.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Words of forgiveness

Charlotte Jacobs & congregation

**Family of faith, no matter how many times you have
spoken without listening,
assumed without knowing,
offered without asking,
or rushed without waiting—
you are forgiven.
God knows your desire and your intent.
God knows when we try and miss the mark,
and God surrounds us in grace.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
Every day is a new day for love.
We are claimed. We are forgiven.
We are invited into relationship.
Thanks be to God for growth and grace that know no end.
Amen.**

Anthem **“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”** choir

Children’s Message “What is impossible” *Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl*

Prayer for Illumination *Charlotte Jacobs*

God of long winters and longer summers,
in the words of Paul, do your best to come to us quickly.
Come to us with loud praise and joy,
or appear to us in a still, small voice.
Come to us through friends,
or come to us through strangers.

Come to us in this text and in this hour of worship,
and come to us quickly if you can.

We are seeking you.

We are always seeking you.

With grateful hearts cracked open by love, we pray.

Amen.

Scripture Reading Job 2:11-13 *Charlotte Jacobs*

11 Now when Job’s three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home - Eliphaz the Termanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him.

12 When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads.

13 they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:17-27

Charlotte Jacobs

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'"

He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words.

But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard is it to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon**"What do we need more than coffee in the morning?"***Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl****Affirmation of Faith***Charlotte Jacobs & congregation*

Let us confess the faith of our Baptism

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead; I Believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of the Saints; the forgiveness for sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life Everlasting. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Charlotte Jacobs

When we love someone in need, it is easy to give.

We show up with casseroles and prayer blankets.

We send cards and make phone calls.

We babysit the kids and drop off flowers.

We don't think twice about it, because when we love someone in need, it is easy to give.

In worship, when we give to the offering, what we are also declaring is that not just those we love are worthy

of our gifts, but God is worthy of our gifts, and strangers whom we have never met are worthy of our gifts.

In worship, when we give to the offering, we are declaring that all of creation deserves love and care, which is a radical notion in this hurting world.

So today, as a way to practice being in relationship and drawing closer to one another,

I invite you to give to the mission and ministry of this church.

For when we love, it is always easy to give.

Prayer of the People | Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Intercessions for the Church and The World

The Lord's Prayer

***Closing Song** **"We Will Not Curse What God has Blessed"**

We will not curse what God has blessed,
Reject what God calls good,
Or call profane what God made clean
For God knows where our hearts have been
And God has understood.

We won't exclude when God has made
A table for us all,
No reason to despise or hate,
To second-guess another's state
Or judge another's call.

And so we pray thy kingdom come,
Below as is above:
Each one of us a welcome guest.
How can we curse what God has blessed?
What God has blessed is love.

(Tune: Rest - Dear Lord and Father of Mankind)

***Benediction**

The guarding of the God of life be on you,
the guarding of the loving Christ be on you,
the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you,

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

to aid you and enfold you each day and
night of your lives. Amen

Postlude

Steve Johnson

Altar Flowers

*To the Glory of God
In Loving Memory of
Caralyn Jayne Burton
Curt & Lois Anne Rayner
Jake & Pam Burton*

Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Pastor Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Ushers: Sally Waugaman & Lois Anne Rayner

Liturgist: Charlotte Jacobs

Musicians: Steve Johnson & Choir

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:*

Rev. Innocent Mabuza, Bishop of some churches in Swaziland and friend of **John Hawkins**, is seriously ill.

Ed Carter (102) is under hospice care in the skilled nursing unit at The Moorings. He is comfortable and appreciates our prayers . There are no visitors at this time.

Glenn Bellinger passed on Friday. His daughter in law will be sending a link with more information

Linda Book continues her battle with multiple myeloma cancer.

Chuck Burton, extended family of Lois Rayner, is dealing with issues related to cancer.

Pauline Cottingham is doing well, despite the general decline in her health.

Peter Culin, Sue Culin's brother-in-law, is undergoing chemotherapy.

Carol Geiger, cousin of Charlotte Jacobs and John Still, is struggling to heal and recover mobility following a fall that left her with 100 stitches to her face, a concussion and cracked bones on the left side of her face.

Rob Harkins, son of Bob and Claudene Harkins, is fighting a serious, resistant foot infection. Bob and Claudene have returned to Florida to support him.

Bill Hrin fell on August 25th, fractured his knee- cap, he is ambulating with difficulty, using a walker.

Sandra Hrin is home and recovering from surgery, but is still dealing with back pain. We keep Sandra and Bill in our prayers.

Clare MacDonald reports that her son-in-law, **Jay Carlson,** who suffered a blood clot in his head, has returned to work on a part-time basis and is gradually improving. She requests our continued prayers for him and his young family.

Lib Macnab Is feeling better and recovering at home. Lib appreciates the continued prayers.

Sharon's sister, Marcy who has just begun her chemotherapy.

Robbie who has lung complications from Covid 19.

Pastor Len's daughter and grandson, **Isaac Hodnett** recovering from COVID and **Izzy Hodnett** recovering from back surgery

Pastor Len's brother James Goettl who is waiting for an open bed to be admitted to the hospital for complications related to Chron's Disease.

Lacey Meade, Betty Pratt's daughter, completed her last round of chemotherapy.

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

Greg Solt, friend of Karen and Glenn Dixon, is battling pancreatic and liver cancer.

Janet Waugaman, Sally 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 Leslie Marsh by phone at 302-542-9927 or email at cmarshjr@verizon.net

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