



Westminster Presbyterian Church

October 24th, 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**

Silvia Ritchie & congregation

One: Come into this place! God is here, God is waiting, God is expecting you and welcoming you!

Many: We come into this place with the hope of growing deeper, with the hope of connecting, with the hope of glimpsing God

One: Gather together now so all of those things take place, and our spirits will be moved, and We will know God is near!

Many: We feel more than lucky for the gift of faith!

One: This is only the beginning. So come on in. Fill your cup here. Be present here. God is here.

Everyone: Let us worship Holy God.

Opening Praise music

Led by Steven and Sarah

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Come, now is the time to worship;

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship;

Come, just as you are before your God, come. (repeat)

One day ev'ry tongue will confess you are God;
One day ev'ry knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose you now.

Come, now is the time to worship;
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship;
Come, just as you are before your God, come, come, come, come. ^[i]

Lord, I Lift Your Name On High

Lord, I lift Your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I lift Your name on high.

[i] *Come, Now is the Time to Worship*: Brian Doerksen ©1998 Vineyard Songs.

Songwriter: Rick Founds lyrics © Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ., Universal Music Brentwood Benson Publishing

Call to Confession

Silvia Ritchie

One of the things I love about the prayer of confession is it allows us to claim that we are works in progress, and in that there is beauty.

You don't have to be perfect here.

You don't have to have it all figured out here.

You don't have to have a five-step plan for what's next here.

You just have to show up with your messy, beautiful self, and be honest.

So friends, let us be honest. Let us pray the prayer of confession together. . .

Prayer of Confession | Truth Telling

Silvia Ritchie & congregation

Truth be told Holy God, We are naturals when it comes to stalling out.
We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall.

We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there, planning to never dig deeper or climb higher. Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter.

Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountain top.
Forgive us for taking the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection.

Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here.
With hope and honesty we pray, Amen.

Words of forgiveness

Silvia Ritchie & congregation

Family of faith, We are works in progress, but we are works in progress designed, created, and claimed by God.

No matter what we have done or left undone this week, today is a fresh start.
Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God is with us on the mountain top, and God is with us on the plateau. We are loved, and claimed, and in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Children's Message "Different Gifts"

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Prayer for Illumination

Silvia Ritchie

Holy God, we know that you are always speaking— through strangers and friends, through sunrise and sunset, through random acts of kindness and feelings that stir hope awake in us.

We know that you speak through dreams and prayer, through a still, small voice and bursts of overwhelming joy.

Everyone:

We know that you are always speaking, but we also know that we are inclined to miss it. Settle our spirits now to hear your word fully. We want to be part of the conversation. Gratefully we pray, Amen

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 61:1-2

Silvia Ritchie

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn

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

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

" Our God Reigns"

Choir

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him,
Who brings good news, good news,
Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness:
Our god reigns, our god reigns!

Refrain:

Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns

He had no stately form, He had no majesty,
That we should be drawn to Him,
He was Despised and we took no account of Him,
Yet now He reigns with the Most High.

(refrain)

Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns

Out of the tomb He came with grace and majesty.

He is alive. He is alive.

God loves us so, see here His hands, His feet, His side...

Yes, we know, He is alive!

Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns

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New Testament Lesson:

1 Corinthians 12: 4-13

Silvia Ritchie

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We go from here...fully equipped!"

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
 Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Affirmation of Faith*Respond to the Word****Everyone**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth;
 And in Jesus Christ, his only 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 saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

"

Invitation to the Offering*Silvia Ritchie*

The story of our faith is one that constantly reminds us that we cannot do this work alone.

So in community, we ask ourselves: Where do we go from here?

And one answer to that question is that we give what we can from what we have, and trust that God will continue moving us closer to that promised day.

So family of faith, I invite you to give your tithes and your offerings now, knowing that this is the work of community, this is the work of faith. Let us give to the glory of God.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of the People | Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

God, we are here, trying to be courageous. We are here, trying to be curious. We are here, trying to build connections. It is easier said than done. We need you like we need this community, like we need the sunrise every morning. So draw near to us. Teach us how to speak.

Teach us how to listen. Teach us how to find you in the spaces between our words and our ears. And as you do, hear and receive these prayers... (*spoken prayers*)

God, we've been meaning to ask, "Where do we go from here? How do we speak truth? How do we listen for you?" Guide us. Be with us. Hold us. Unsettle us. Catch us. Feed us. Fill us. Meet us here. God, we are open. Pour into us. Gratefully we pray as Jesus taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Going forth in Joy!

***Closing Hymn**

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" GTG #353

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

***Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Family of faith, as we leave this place, may God grant us the curiosity to counter assumptions, the vulnerability to befriend, the bravery to speak God's truth, the wisdom to listen, the strength to ask for help, the resiliency to choose love, even when it's hard, and the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside and within us. In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself. Amen. And see what love the Father has for us that we should be called Children of God... and so we are!

Postlude

Steve Johnson

Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Pastor Rev. Dr. Len Hedges-Goettl

Ushers: Charlotte Jacobs & Lois Ann Rayner

Liturgist: Silvia Ritchie

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.

Theresa Altvater, grandmother of **Sarah**, has been admitted to the hospital in New Jersey. Sarah has requested prayers for healing, as well as the comfort of God's calming hand for her father, who is Theresa's primary caregiver.

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.

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.

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 was in the hospital and now home recovering. 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, has passed. Please keep his family in prayer.

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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