

Westminster Presbyterian Church

October 31st, 2021 | 10:00am

Live Streaming | In Person

Prelude

Steve Johnson

Welcome

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

Choir

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Candle Lighting [spoken litany]

John Rotach & congregation

We light this flame to affirm that where there is light,

there is understanding;

where there is understanding,

there is compassion;

where there is compassion,

there is possibility;

where there is possibility;

there is transformation.

Holy and Living God, transform our fears into awe-inspired wonder.

**Open us to this light, and to the rich possibilities that it brings us for a
“wonder-full” life.**

Call to Worship

John Rotach & congregation

God’s people are gathered, we join with the Saints of all the ages in giving glory to our God. Let us join our hearts, souls, strengths and minds, as one as we give praise to the God of all creation, the God we have come to know in Jesus Christ.

Song of Praise

"Arise Your Light Has Come"

GTG #744

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Call to Confession

John Rotach

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
Let us renounce our willfulness and seek God's mercy
By confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Prayer of Confession

John Rotach & congregation

Gracious God, you call us your own children and cover us with your love. We would seek to be merciful as you are, and to show compassion as you do, but we fail to live the life to which we have been called.

**Where we ought to forgive, we condemn; the evil we should shun, we embrace.
Forgive our sinful ways, tame our wayward wills, and make us more like Christ, until
we are raised in perfection on the last day. Amen.**

Words of forgiveness

John Rotach & congregation

Believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer for Illumination

John Rotach

Holy and gracious God, you are the greatest of all. You are full of wonders that no mere human can comprehend. Lord, I seek to understand you and your ways so that I can live according to your commandments.

I pray for your divine illumination in my heart and mind. Help me see what you intend for me to see. Help me understand what you intend for me to understand. Open my eyes and my ears to see you and hear your whispers. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

John Rotach

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Rev 7:9-17

John Rotach

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

12 "Ame! Blessing and the glory and wisdom
And thanksgiving and honor
And power and might
Be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?"

14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 For this reason they are before the throne of God,
And worship him day and night within his temple,
And the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no, more;
The sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
And he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Homecoming”

Rev. Barbara Macfie

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 Spirit,
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 hence 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

John Rotach

What I have a sense of wonder about when I think about the work of the church (name something in the past, or something now, or in the future) One of the reasons we have a church story is because people have been generous with their tithes and talents. I am so grateful that Westminster Presbyterian Church is a part of my life.

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Gracious God, looking back, we see the generosity of those who came before us, acknowledging their hardships and struggles, their joys and gains that bring us to the place we are now. In looking back, help us to build a foundation for those who

will look back at our lives, those who will be affected by what we do, what we offer, what we give. Help us to rejoice in the knowledge that lives are being changed now, and in the future, because of what we are able to do with our tithes and talents. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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.

Anthem

"Be Unto Your Name"

Choir

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Barbara Macfie

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 you glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Guide us. Be with us. Hold us. Unsettle us. Feed us. Fill us. Amen

Communion

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Benediction

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Postlude

Steve Johnson

**A Congregational Meeting is called for November 14 right after our
worship service
to hear and vote on the nominations for Deacons and Elders for class of
2024.**

And to vote on committee members for auditors and the nominating committee.

Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Pastor Rev. Barbara Macfie

Ushers: Charlotte Jacobs & Lois Ann Rayner

Liturgist: John Rotach

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

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.

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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