

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

May 23, 2021



Dear friends,

Please note the latest updates for our in-person worship services. This was decided by the Session in response both to Governor Carney's and the CDC's new guidelines for COVID-19.

1. Pre Registration will no longer be required for in-person worship services
2. Sign-in when you arrive at church will be required for possible contact tracing.
3. Masks and social distancing (3-6 ft) will continue to be enforced
4. Temperatures will no longer be taken when you arrive
5. Singing will be led, through the end of June, by a soloist. The congregation is encouraged to sing loudly in their hearts and very quietly with their lips (or hum).
6. Fellowship after service, will happen outside but, at this time, without refreshments
7. A plate will not be passed for offering but baskets will be available for giving pledges/offering on your way in or out
8. Pew bibles and hymnals may now be used

Session's reasoning for masks and social distancing for all is this.

**“The latest CDC guidance for masks and social distancing is for what INDIVIDUALS CAN do-- not what CONGREGATIONS (in which both vaccinated and unvaccinated people gather together) SHOULD do. As a Session we are committed BOTH to CDC guidance AND to the principle that we will not cause stigma about either illness or vaccination status. We encourage compassion for all who are sick and vaccination, at the soonest time possible, for all who are unvaccinated. Our congregation includes people who are unvaccinated, including children, older persons who have not yet been able to be vaccinated, and some who have refused vaccination.**

**Unvaccinated people of any age can get the virus and spread it to others who are unvaccinated. Visitors who join us for worship will also, likely, be of this same mixed status as our own congregation. Therefore, when we are among those who may be unvaccinated, we will be as the unvaccinated for the sake of the unvaccinated-- for their safety, and to avoid stigmatizing them. We are one body in Christ, no more protected than the least protected among us.”**

Christ love,

Pastor Shannon

## **“Spirit Poured Out: Dare to Dance Again”**

Pentecost Sunday

### **Prelude**

Cantilena (from Sonata in D Minor) Josef Rheinberger

### **Welcome**

## **GATHERING OUR STRENGTH**

### **Threshold**

*Leader:* Ezekiel has a vision of a valley full of bones receiving life, breath, sinew, and flesh after encountering the word of God. When they arise, they receive Spirit and they dance! As Easter people we celebrate the Spirit that continues to give life and breath to our dry bones. We dare to dance in the face of fear, in the face of cynicism, in the face of despair. We dare to dance “as long as we live” for we, like the early Christians, are the recipients of the Spirit of God which intercedes even when we think we can’t make it to

the dance floor.

**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:* The day of Pentecost has arrived and calls us to dance – to dance in the wind and fire of the Spirit, to feel, to allow exuberance to fill our bodies and souls. With those in Jerusalem on that day, may we dare to dream – to imagine – to let our breath be taken away – and to dance!

**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 flames of the Spirit are beckoning.

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

Our focus is on the future and what we might do together.

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

When rain comes again, we will open the umbrellas of joy and set out anyway.

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

## **Opening Song of Praise**

*“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us” GTG 280*

### **Prayer**

*Clare MacDonald*

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

Praise to you for your indwelling Spirit  
that moves within our lives.

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  
**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: Ezekiel 37:1-12, 14**     *Clare MacDonald*

### **Sounds of Resurrection**

"Spirit I Have Heard You Calling"     *words and music by Thew Elliott*

**Second Reading: from Acts 2:1-18, 21**     *Clare MacDonald*

**Sermon**     *Rev. Dr. Shannon Smythe*  
"Other Tongues"

## **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.**

### **Offering Our Resources and our Energy** *Clare MacDonald*

*Liturgist:* We know that proclaiming resurrection and daring to dance as we have done this season doesn't mean that things are all OK. But it does bring us the energy we need if we are to continue to dance the dance of justice and find the steps of service. So let us continue the dance of generosity. You are invited to give your offering online or in a basket on your way out.

## **STEPPING OUT**

### **Song for Stepping Out**

*“Go to the World” GTG 295*

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Prelude in D Major J.K. Fischer

Thank you to those involved in worship today: Ushers: Adele Trout and Nancy Tompkins; Liturgist: Clare MacDonald; Musician: Brad Ucci; Soloist: Robert Patlan  
Sunday School Volunteer: Kevin Subers

**NOTE: Pastor Shannon will be taking time off to get her family moved into their new home in Lewes. She will be out of the office and away from email/phone from May 24th-June 6th and will return on June 7th. Elder Dave Norton will lead worship on May 30th. Rev. Barbara Macfie will lead worship on June 6th. Barbara Macfie will be on-call from May 24-June 6 for pastoral care and emergencies. She can be reached at: (302)945-9582 (home), (732)501-2097 (cell), and bmacfie@me.com.**

### ***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** – fell and injured her arm and is experiencing pain. Also, her general health is declining.

**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** – Experienced a break in her scapula (shoulder blade) which was spontaneous and due to her brittle bones from osteoporosis. She is experiencing a great deal of pain, so please pray for healing

**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).**