

WESTMINSTER  PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Service for the Lord's Day

Holy Communion

First Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2021

GATHERING

(Silence during the Prelude is requested in preparation for worship.)

PRELUDE Solemn Prelude on a Theme of Thomas Tallis Gerald Near

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God.

(Those who are able may stand.)

“Come,” says the Lord. “All you who are thirsty,
come to the waters.”

“Come. Here there is bread and wine for your soul.”

“Come,” says the Lord, “come be my people,
and I will be your God.”

We are your people. You are our God.

Come, let us walk in the way of the Lord!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**On this Lord's Day,
grant that we,
the people you create by water and the Spirit,
may be joined with all your works
in praising you for your great glory.
Through Jesus Christ,
in union with the Holy Spirit,
we praise you now and forever. Amen.**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
 2 Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
 3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
 4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
 5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side,

for - ty days and for - ty nights temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
 vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
 that with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

CALL TO CONFESSION

As believers in the Creator God
 and followers of Jesus Christ,
 we have a longing to confess our sins—
**because sin is what gets in the way
 of our relationships with God and one another.**

So we come to this time of confession,
 knowing and believing
 that God’s grace is already at work
 even before we mumble a word.
**For where sin increases,
 grace increases all the more.**
 We humbly pray together now
 and confess the burdens of our hearts.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Merciful God,
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.**

**Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
In your great compassion,
cleanse us from our sin.**

**Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Do not cast us from your presence,
or take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the job of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

(Silent confession)

Kyrie (*Sung responsively by the choir and congregation*) James MacMillan

Choir: Congregation:
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ,
have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(The liturgist pours water, which reminds us of our baptism.)

In our baptism we die with Christ to sin
and are raised with him to a life of righteousness.

Believe the Good News: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

*The Peace

Since God in Christ has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(Please exchange the peace with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

Genesis 9:8-17

(Sung responsively after each scripture reading.)

Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a right spirit within me.
Renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 25

Marty Haugen

Refrain

To you, O Lord, I lift my—
soul, to you, I lift my soul._____

Lord, make me know Your ways, teach me Your paths,
and keep me in the way of Your truth,
for You are God, my Savior. *Refrain.*

For the Lord is good and righteous,
revealing the way to those who seek God,
gently leading the poor and the humble. *Refrain.*

To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to the Word,
who live God's love, God will always be near;
God will show them true mercy. *Refrain.*

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

SERMON

T.J. Piccolo

(A moment for meditation)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Anthem

I've Been in the Storm So Long

H.T. Burleigh

I've been in the storm so long, I've been in the storm so long children, I've been in the storm so long, oh, give me little time to pray.

Oh, let me tell my mother how I came along, oh give me little time to pray, with a long down head and an aching heart, oh, give me little time to pray.

Oh when I get to heaven, I'll walk all about, oh, give me little time to pray. There'll be nobody there to turn me out, oh, give me little time to pray.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PREPARATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE

*INVITATION

*GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

Hearts full of joy are lifted to you, . . .
who could lead us back to you.

Therefore, we lift our voices
with the faithful of every time and place,
and the choirs of the Kingdom,
who forever sing of your goodness and love:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, _____
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho -



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est, ho san - na in the high - est.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Holy are you, God of Faithfulness...
that we might have life and have it abundantly.

Great is the mvsterv of faith:



Christ has died; _____ Christ is ris - en; Christ wil come a - gain.



Christ has died; _____ Christ is ris - en; Christ will come a - gain.

So pour your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon the bread we break
and the cup we share.
Through these gifts,
make us one with the Risen Christ.



A - men, _____ a - men, - a - - men.

***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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Music during Communion

Anthem

My Son, the Beloved

David Blackburn

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
And as he came out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart
and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
And a voice came down from heaven,
"You are my Son, my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased." "My Son, the Beloved."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN 165

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a right spirit within me.
Renew a right spirit within me.

POSTLUDE Theme and Variation on St. Flavian Flor Peeters

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

SERVICE NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgist: Guy D. Griffith, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture.

MUSICIANS: Susan Kelly, Soloist; John W. Semingson, Director of Music Ministries; Polly Brecht, Organist.

COMMUNION: The Presbyterian Church (USA) practices “open Communion” without regard to denominational affiliation. All who truly seek to become more faithful to Christ are welcome at the Lord’s Table. Westminster celebrates the “Eucharist,” meaning “thanksgiving,” on the first Sunday of each month, on the first Sunday of each liturgical season, and on every Sunday during the Season of Easter, except Baptism Sundays.

LENT: The word “Lent” is derived from the Old English word *lencten*, meaning “Spring,” which in turn derives from the Old High German *lenzin*, referring to “the lengthening of days.” The season we know as Spring was originally called Lent. Lent gradually adhered strictly to church practice, and Spring came to designate the season following Winter.

Lent lasts for forty weekdays plus Sundays, a number richly grounded in Biblical tradition. In the Bible there are 120 references to the number forty, among them: the days of Noah’s deluge; the days that Moses spent on the mountain; the years Israel wandered in the wilderness; the days of Elijah’s journey to the cave of the “still, small voice;” and Jesus’ forty-day wilderness sojourn in which he was tempted by Satan.

Lent has traditionally been a time in which Christians have engaged in self-reflection, fasting, prayer, confession, and repentance in anticipation of the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. At Westminster, in order to emphasize the meaning of Lent, we adopt a more penitential posture in worship. There are no flowers; no festive choir processional; no *Act of Praise* following the *Confession and Assurance of Pardon*; and at several points in the service we incorporate the ancient and plaintive supplication from Psalm 51: “Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRE-RECORDED PORTIONS OF WORSHIP SERVICES: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.” Ephesians 5:22-23

We all have approached this pandemic differently, but the Staff is grateful for the evidence of “the fruit of the Spirit” within this congregation. As we return to in-person worship, the Session has given the Staff latitude as to how they wish to participate in and lead services. Therefore, in the days ahead, Staff members may not always be present in the Sanctuary during worship.

The sermon this Sunday will be pre-recorded.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The air filtration system in the Sanctuary has recently been upgraded from MERV 8 to MERV 13 in our efforts to reduce the risk of infection. In the filtration industry, efficiency refers to ASHRAE’s (The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) national testing standards, known as MERV, or Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: In-person worship services in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. continue today, February 21, 2021. Indoor Service protocols (<https://bit.ly/39K0gOX>) will be maintained. Reservations must be made in advance.

If you are interested in attending a worship service, please reserve your spot below, and let us know how many people will be in your party. You will be able to see immediately if space is still available. Attendance is capped at 63 people. In the reservation comment section, you will be able to address any needs you may have during the service.

Please [click here](#) to reserve your spot for the 8:30 am service.

Please [click here](#) for the 11:00 am service.

We will continue streaming our weekly online services at 8:30 am on Sundays. Midweek services will continue to be LIVE streamed on Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m.

If you miss the service, you can watch it later in the day or week. Go to nashvillewpc.org and in the Quick Links box, click on WPC Live Stream Services. The newest service may not yet be dated.

WELCOME: Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomes you to share our common journey to become more faithful disciples of Christ. If you are interested in learning about membership, please contact Melissa Threatt (864.506.0267; melissa.threatt@gmail.com) or Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler (615.292.5526; hhudnutbeumler@nashvillewpc.org).

THE RED ROSE IN THE CHANCEL this morning gives glory and thanksgiving to God for the birth of a daughter, Emerson Anne, born on February 11, 2021 to Fran and Carl Grote IV.

LENTEN MID-DAY PRAYER EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH LENT: Westminster's staff will be leading Lenten Mid-Day Prayer in the Sanctuary every Wednesday from 11:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m. beginning Wednesday, February 24th to March 31st. The services will be simple and meditative, befitting the season. Attendees will need to register prior to each service. To attend the Mid-Day Prayer service on February 24, 2021 click here (<https://bit.ly/3b9HBeR>).

EASTER LILIES: This year, our Easter worship services may be different, but we will continue with our treasured tradition of gracing our Sanctuary with lilies during the Lenten season and Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. If you would like to purchase a lily (\$10) in memory or in honor of a friend or family member, please place your order online at www.nashvillewpc.org or by email to Terri Eckert at teckert@nashvillewpc.org. *The deadline for submitting names to be included in the Easter bulletin is Sunday, March 21, 2021.*

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION: The music used in the service this morning is copyrighted under Christian Copyright Licensing International, Inc., No. 11221525.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Purpose Statement

*Ordinary people testifying to the extraordinary light
found in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

“For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.” (2 *Corinthians 4:6-7*)

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