

WESTMINSTER  PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Service for the Lord's Day

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021**

The church's task is to learn to keep our eyes peeled for how God is at work. We gather each week, watching for the coming king. And with the earnestness of the Audubon society, we look for the quiet, overlooked glory in our midst, for God's perplexing yet healing presence in the world. We watch for glimpses of the redemption to come, even now. Through prayer, through gathered worship, through Scriptures and sacraments, we train our eyes to notice the light in the darkness.

(from Tish Harrison Warren's *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep*)

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE O Mensch, Bewein dein Sünde Gross, BWV 622 J.S. Bach
O Man, lament your great sin

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us worship God.

(Those who are able may stand.)

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those the Lord redeemed from trouble.

Psalm 107:1-2

Wait for the Lord;

Be strong, and let our hearts take courage; wait for the Lord! Psalm 27:14

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**Gracious God,
in order that the children of earth
might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world.
As Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in all truth and goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*HYMN 409

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins,
**God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins
 and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(1 John 1:8-9)

In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

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,
cleans 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 joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.**

(Silent confession)

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

The musical score for the Kyrie is written in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy." The first staff is for the Choir, the second for the Congregation, the third for the Choir, and the fourth for the Congregation and Choir. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating long notes.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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.**

Numbers 21:4-9

(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 107:1-3, 17-22

Calvin Hampton

There's a wideness in God's mercy, Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, Which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members In the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader Than the measures of our mind,
And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple We should take him at his word,
And our lives would be all sunshine In the sweetness of our Lord.

Fearful souls, why will you scatter Like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander From a love so true and deep?
There is welcome for the sinner And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior, There is healing in his blood. Amen.

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

SERMON

“Lifted Up”

Guy D. Griffith

*“In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert
so people could have something to see and then believe,
it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up...” (John 3:14, The Message)*

(A moment for meditation)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery
which the Scriptures describe in various ways.**

It is called

**the sacrifice of a lamb,
a shepherd’s life given for his sheep,
atonement by a priest;
again it is ransom of a slave,
payment of debt,
vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty,
and victory over the powers of evil.**

**These are expressions of a truth
which remains beyond the reach of all theory
in the depths of God’s love for humankind.**

**They reveal
the gravity, cost, and sure achievement
of God’s reconciling work.**

(The Confession of 1967)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Anthem

God So Loved the World

Sir John Goss

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him, through him might be saved. Amen.

***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.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**God of compassion,
we praise you that you look upon our frail lives
with love and understanding,
and that you desire for us all
new life in Jesus Christ.
We are overwhelmed by your love,
which goes to the cross for us,
endures the grave, and leads us to new life.**

**By your Spirit, strengthen our souls
to be brave and bold in Christ's service.
Take our offerings,
and use them and us for your purposes,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.**

***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.**

SENDING

***HYMN 649** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound **AMAZING GRACE**

***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

Fugue in c minor, BWV 537

J.S.Bach

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

SERVICE NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS: Liturgist: T.J. Piccolo, Associate Director of Youth.

MUSICIANS: Garrett Doo, soloist; John W. Semingson, Director of Music Ministries; Polly Brecht, Organist.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: In-person worship services in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. continue today, March 14, 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 make a reservation for the **8:30 am service**.

Please [click here](#) for **childcare reservations** for the 8:30 am service.

Please [click here](#) to make a reservation for the **11:00 am service**.

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

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).

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. to March 31st. Go to nashvillewpc.org and in the Quick Links box, click on WPC Live Stream Services.

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 on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. [Click here](#) to order a lily (\$10 each) in honor of or in memory of a loved one, complete a form from the Information Desk or in the Church Office, or email your order to Terri Eckert at teckert@nashvillewpc.org. *The deadline for submitting names to be included in the Easter bulletin is next Sunday, March 21, 2021.*

WPC MONTHLY FINANCIAL OPERATING SUMMARY: Each month the Finance Committee provides a summary of the church operating income and expenses. If any members wish to have more information about church finances, please contact: Jo Ann McFarlin, jmcfarlin@nashvillewpc.org or 615-292-5526x231, Mike Koban, Finance Committee Chair at mkoban@prodigy.net, or Suzanne McLemore, Treasurer at suzannegm58@gmail.com.

February 28, 2021

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$249,146	\$863,504
Expense:	<u>\$205,443</u>	<u>\$484,659</u>
Net Income (loss):	<u>\$ 43,703</u>	<u>\$378,845</u>

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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)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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