



**Westminster Presbyterian
Church**

Midweek Lenten Prayer Service

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Sanctuary · 11:45 a.m.**

PRELUDE

Suite in a minor
Praeludium, Allamande, Passepied, Chaconne

J.C.F. Fischer

OPENING SENTENCES

Matt. 11: 28-30

Jesus said, Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Ted Loder

Now,
O Lord,
calm me into a quietness
that heals
and listens,
and molds my longings
and passions
my wounds
and wonderings
into a more holy
and human shape. Amen.

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

PSALM 91: 1-6, 9-12

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
 who abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

**You shall say to the Lord,
 “You are my refuge and my stronghold,
 my God in whom I put my trust.”**

God shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter
 and from the deadly pestilence.

**God’s pinions will cover you,
 and you shall find refuge under the wings of the Lord,
 whose faithfulness shall be your shield and defense.**

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
 nor of any arrow that flies by day;

**nor the plague that stalks in the darkness,
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

**no evil will befall you,
nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

For God shall give the holy angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

PSALM PRAYER

**Into your hands we commend ourselves, O God,
our bodies and souls and all that is ours.
Defend us from every enemy,
that, trusting in your protective care,
we may have no fear;
through the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

I John 4: 7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

SILENT MEDITATION

LENTEN PRAYER OF APPROACH TO GOD

O God the Creator of heaven and earth, our Eternal Parent,

Have mercy on us.

O God, the Son, redeemer of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

three persons and one God,

Have mercy on us.

We approach you now with open and yearning hearts,
listening for your voice. What should we let go of this Lent?
What should we take on as Christ's disciples?

(Silent and spoken individual prayers of confession)

Amen.

We thank and praise you, Eternal God,
for all your goodness to us.

Your love is everlasting.

For growing up and growing old;

for wisdom deepened by experience;

for time made precious by its passing;

for all your gifts to us, we thank you, God.

We come before you now, God, with grateful and thankful hearts.
Hear our prayers of praise and thanksgiving, for all your gifts,
all your promises, all your blessings.

(Silent and spoken individual prayers of thanksgiving)

Amen.

**Lord Jesus,
You are above us – reigning.
You are in us – living.
We are your temple not made with hands.
We are your body.
If every wall should crumble, and every church decay,
we are your habitation.
Nearer are you than breathing, closer than hands and feet.
Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,
look out in compassion on the world.**

We come before you now, God, for we are hurting -
for ourselves, for those we love, for the world.
Hear our prayers of supplication and intercession,
poured out at the foot of your cross.

*(Silent and spoken individual prayers
of supplication and intercession)*

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.**

HYMN 300

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We Are One in the Spirit

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

BLESSING

On our hearts and on our homes,
the blessing of God.

In our coming and our going,
the peace of God.

In our life and our believing,
the love of God.

At our end and new beginning,
the arms of God to welcome us and bring us home.

Go forth in peace, to love and serve with Christ!
Amen!

Liturgists: Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Pianist: John Semingson, Director of Music Ministries

Soloist: Hannah Boles

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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*)

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