
Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MAY 1, 2022 AT 11AM

3RD SUNDAY
OF EASTER



“THE NATURAL WORLD IS THE LARGER SACRED COMMUNITY TO WHICH WE BELONG. TO BE ALIENATED FROM THIS COMMUNITY IS TO BECOME DESTITUTE IN ALL THAT MAKES US HUMAN... [T]HIS SENSE OF THE SACRED CHARACTER OF THE NATURAL WORLD AS OUR PRIMARY REVELATION OF THE DIVINE IS OUR FIRST NEED.”

-THOMAS BERRY, FROM
“THE DREAM OF THE EARTH”

☞ ——— *We Come Into God's Presence with Joy* ——— ☞

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (congregation please read bold type) Carol Hufnagel, liturgist

To bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air;

We join with the earth and with each other.

To renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures;

We join with the earth and with each other.

To celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars;

We join with the earth and with each other.

To recall our destiny, to renew our spirits, to reinvigorate our bodies;

We join with the earth and with each other.

To recreate the human community, to promote justice and peace,
to remember our children;

We join with the earth and with each other.

We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery:

for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

Let us worship the Holy Creator!

* **HYMN #713**

Touch the Earth Lightly

TENDERNESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all Creation, we come to you in a moment of personal and corporate confession. We participate in a system which is exploitative, and violent, and which separates humanity from the rest of Creation. By acts of omission and commission we cause harm to others. At times we are guilty of complicity, passivity, and denial, at other times of abuses of power. We hear the cries of both our fellow humans, who are already living in the midst of extreme poverty and hunger, and the cries of all Creation. We know we bear responsibility for the pain of both, and we know the impact one has on the other. We confess our complicity in the plight of all of your Creation, and beg your forgiveness and mercy, that we may do better to follow the way of you who creates.

Silent prayers of confession.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND PROMISE

Response: Thanks be to God.

*** PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*** SONG OF RESPONSE #581** *Glory Be to the Father*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

☞ ————— *We Hear God's Word* ————— ☞

FIRST READING OF THE WORD Genesis 1:26-28

ANTHEM

SECOND READING OF THE WORD Psalm 8

SERMON *All the People, Praise God!* Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

☞ ————— *We Respond to God's Word* ————— ☞

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER #466 *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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 our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, source of all being,
you are greater by far than our human thoughts can comprehend.
With all that you have created, you abide;
weeping with us in grief and pain, rejoicing with us in life and love.
You are everywhere in this very moment;
holding the entirety of living experience
and weaving us together in the great and intricate tapestry of Creation.

**Creator God, mother and father of us all,
in your holy love you took on our limitations.
Born of a body, bound within a body,
you know the whole of this human experience.
Learning to communicate with words;
teaching us to communicate with presence.
Learning the fears that wring us dry;
teaching us of the love that nurtures us back to life.**

Everlasting God, you are everywhere and right here.
As close as the air we breathe,
the air which binds us one to another and all to your beautiful creation.
You are as close as the sunlight on our skin,
as close as the rain that drips from our hair;
the wind and the water that push us and lead us
and call us again and again into relationship with one another and with you.
Holy Spirit, divine Advocate, guide and encourage us.

As we break bread together, as we drink from the same cup, unite us as people
who are grateful for the journey, for each other's company, and for your guiding
presence. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND 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.**

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Invitation to the Offering

Song of Response #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth (v.5)*
**For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
For the great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Committed to respond to the call of a wounded world...
We join together this day with loving hearts, hands, and minds.
Embracing the interconnected web of water, air, and earth...
We light a fire of sustaining hope, ever bright with love and justice.
May we bring forth this day new wisdom, strength, and courage
To create a new world not of wealth, but well-being.
A world of new peace and abundance for all.
As we give thanks for this earth, our shared and singular home,
May we dedicate ourselves to its ongoing care.
Rising to the calls deep within us, and all around us...
May we respond today and always with courage and with love. Amen.**



We Go Forth to Serve



* **BENEDICTION**

Gaelic Blessing adapted

All Sustaining Spirit,
You encircle space and time;
You swirl and sing through every season.
In silent stillness you settle deep into the soul of Creation.
Your sacred wisdom has come to us this day
in the words of ancient truth,
through the words of present day prophets,
for the ones whose future wellbeing is formed by our response today. May our
actions be formed
by what has been spoken and heard and felt here today.
Make us wise and faithful stewards of Creation
sustained by your Spirit forever more.

... and let all God's people say, "**Alleluia! Amen!**"

POSTLUDE

☞ ————— *This Week's News* ————— ☞

Members of Riverside Community Gathering thank you for the freshly baked bread offered from our celebration of Communion today and shared with them this Wednesday.

The Earth Care Stewardship Calendar activity for May 1 is to share with others the things you do to demonstrate care for the earth. Westminster has recently signed up for more detailed utility information with the City of Ann Arbor and DTE. This provides us the information we need to reduce our usage of resources and to be good stewards of the church budget. We encourage you to do the same to track your own energy consumption!

Spring Gemini Concert! Saturday, May 14 at 2 p.m. on the Westminster Lawn. An event for young and old; plan to sing, clap, and smile! Folding chairs provided, or bring a blanket to sit on. Rain date will be Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m.

Spring Clean-Up: Join the Facility Care Ministry Team on May 14th from 9-12 to help spruce up our building and grounds. There will be various cleaning opportunities and small projects both inside and outside the building. A little elbow grease can go a long way!

The approved minutes from the 3/15/22 Session meeting are available on the bookshelf across from the elevator.

Quarterly Contribution Statements through March 31st are ready to be picked up from the coffee bar counter as you enter Fellowship Hall. We thank you for your continued donations to the mission and ministry of Westminster! Questions: please contact Bookkeeper April Wright (alwright@westpresa2.org) in the church office.

☞ ————— *Grow in Faith and Friendship* ————— ☞

Reading Through the Bible Group meets Sundays at 9:30 AM. Please contact Marcia Anderson (hilden.anderson@gmail.com; 734-757-4305) or Jun Zhang (junz@umich.edu) for more information.

Sunday Morning Adult Ed meets in the fellowship hall at 9:30 AM. For the month of May, we will be looking at excerpts from *Let's Talk* by Harold Haie. Haie presents a "better way" to discuss controversial topics.

Sunday Evening Bible Study meets on the first and third Sundays at 6 PM; please contact Bryce Babcock for information (babcockjb@comcast.net).

Monday Conversations are weekly at 1 PM online. The Zoom invitation is in the Friday *Good Things* and Sunday podcast emails, or contact Rev. Allison (melissa@westpresa2.org).

Mary Martha Group meets the first and third Mondays at 7 PM. Please contact Margaret Klammer (mklammer@comcast.net) for more information. New members are welcome.

Matthew 25 Study Group meets at 7 PM on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. A mix of book and Bible study helps us understand how to follow Jesus in today's world. For meeting information please contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizbeth0405@yahoo.com) or Carol Hufnagel (Carol.Hufnagel@tetrattech.com).

Thursday Book Club meets at 1 PM weekly in the school year and occasionally in the summer. New members are welcome. Please contact Sue Flynn to learn more (cafelapeninsula@comcast.net).

WE PRAY FOR OUR WESTMINSTER FAMILY

Current needs: Madison Henry

Ongoing needs: Betty Reed, Riverside Gathering guests, Kathryn & Richard Trim

Please email prayer requests to Connie George (clgeorge@comcast.net) for listing here and in the *Friday Good Things Are Happening* email; or contact Jill Fairchild, prayer chain coordinator (jill@thefairchilds.net or 734-417-0816). You can join our email prayer chain by contacting Jill. To keep us current, please share updates on those for whom we are praying.

☞ ————— *Welcome to Westminster* ————— ☞

We thank you for choosing to worship with us, and hope you experience God's presence and love. We invite you to indicate your presence in worship at bit.ly/worship-sign-in.

Sunday worship podcasts are at bit.ly/westpres_online.

Westminster reaches out through both local and global mission. Opportunities are available for spiritual growth through study and practical application of the Christian message. We are serious about prayer and caring for those in need. We are an authentic faith community offering fellowship and encouragement on life's journey. We welcome all who seek deeper meaning in their lives.

More information is available on our website (www.westpresa2.org). You may contact Dr. Allison or any staff member by calling the church office at 734-761-9320. For deacon care, please contact Connie George (clgeorge@comcast.net).

Thank you for continuing to fulfill your pledges and financial commitments in support of the mission and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

WESTMINSTER STAFF MEMBERS may be reached by phone at 734-761-9320

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