



Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 AT 11AM | 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

An open and welcoming Christian community in service to God and neighbor

We Come Into God's Presence with Joy

Gathering Music

Life of the Church

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Gale Ring, liturgist

*O Lord, from whose creative power the first light came forth,
and who did look upon the world's first morning and saw that it was good,
We praise you for the light of this day.*

We praise You for the life that stirs within us.

We praise you for the bright and beautiful world in which we live.

We praise You for earth and sea and sky, for scudding clouds and singing birds.

We praise you for the work you have given us to do.

We praise You for the miracle of our families.

We praise you for the gift of friends.

We praise You for music, for books, for good company, and all pure pleasure.

O Lord, in praise and thanksgiving,

we come to worship you and to enjoy you forever.

* Hymn #664

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

* You are invited to stand as you are able.

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we have done wrong by not caring when we should have loved, by our indifference to the cry of need, or by hating and ignoring our neighbors. Too often we stand on the sidelines of life and criticize, but refuse to commit our lives to truth, to helping others, to following the way of your dear Son. O God, we need the love of your Son, the strength of your Spirit, the support of your community, and your ever-present mercy. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of God's Presence and Promise

Believe the good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Passing the Peace

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

* Song of Response #609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

† **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

We Hear God's Word

First Reading of The Word Psalm 145:8-13a

† *You are welcome to sign as you are comfortable and able.*

We continue this practice as a way to engage our whole selves in worship.

Anthem

Second Reading of the Word **Matthew 14:13-21**

Sermon

Miracle of Miracles

Rev. Dr. Loren
M. Scribner

We Respond to God's Word

* Confession of Faith

Confession of 1967: 9.15

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinners. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the redeemer is the Lord and creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great 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 God thanks and praise.

—> CONTINUED —>

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

And with him, and all the saints and martyrs and sinners of all ages, we do dare pray together saying:

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Wine

Prayer after Communion

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Offering

* Song of Response #748 *Go with Us, Lord*

† **Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn #20

*All Things Bright
and Beautiful*

ROYAL OAK

We Go Forth to Serve

* Benediction

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

Postlude

Please give a warm welcome to today's guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner. Rev. Dr. Scribner is a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church, USA. He reports that his earliest Christian experience was that of a neighborhood Pentecostal congregation that offered lots of love but not many answers to his many questions. It was not until after Loren joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 19 that religion became a fascinating subject to him. He encountered Buddhists and Shintos in Japan, Confucians in China, atheists and Baptists and Catholics and fundamentalists on board ships. All of this was a bit overwhelming. Finally, a chaplain advised: "Loren, either go back to school and study Christianity or forget it altogether." He did, go back to college, that is. Loren graduated from Indiana University in 1963 with a major in medieval history and minors in medieval philosophy and Greek. He received a master's in theology from Valparaiso University and a Doctor of Ministry Studies from SFTS. Loren pastored First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis, MI, and later was a teaching chaplain at Schreiner University, in Kerrville, TX. Since his retirement in 2003 he has had the pleasure of teaching religion at Marygrove College, Henry Ford Community College, and the University of Detroit Mercy. Loren worships at the Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Sharon, have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

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 2022-23 Annual Meeting of the congregation will be on September 24 following worship. Together, we will receive the annual report, hear from select ministry teams, and enjoy a meal highlighting the Michigan harvest! Please join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness throughout this past year and anticipate the year ahead.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbytery of the Pacific following the recent wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui. If you would like to help contribute to the relief efforts there, there is an option on our online giving page, or you can give by check to Westminster with "Maui" in the memo line.

Form for Emergency Contact: Soon you will receive an email from your Deacon with a new Emergency Contact Form attached that you can fill out and return electronically. You can also ask that a Form be mailed to you to fill out or pick one up at the office. Forms are kept confidential and secure, accessible only to staff and deacons. Thank you for helping in this important effort.

Approved minutes from the June 6 Stated Session meeting and the August 8 Called Session Meeting are available on the shelf across from the elevator.

We pray for our Westminster family

Ongoing needs: Elke Kramer, Betty Reed, Riverside Gathering guests

Condolences to the family of Sue Bennett on the August 22 death of Sue.

Please email prayer requests to Diane Imredy (imredyd57@gmail.com) 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).

Grow in Faith and Friendship

Reading Through the Bible Group meets Sundays at 9:30am. Please contact Marcia Anderson (hilden.anderson@gmail.com; 734-757-4305) for more info.

Sunday Morning Adult Ed meets in the fellowship hall at 9:30am. We are currently discussing material from the book, *Romans for Normal People* by J.R. Daniel Kirk.

Monday Conversations are weekly at 1pm online. The Zoom invitation is in the Friday *Good Things* and Sunday podcast emails.

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

Matthew 25 Study Group meets at 7pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Starting September 11, we will be studying *A Jesus Shaped Life* by Bob Rognlien. For meeting information please contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizbeth0405@yahoo.com) or Carol Hufnagel (carol.hufnagel@tetrattech.com).

Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 3pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome! Contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizbeth0405@yahoo.com) for more info.

Thursday Book Club will resume weekly meetings on Thursday, September 7th at 1PM at Westminster and over Zoom. We will be reading *Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass. Please let Sue Flynn know if you would like to join us (cafelapeninsula@comcast.net).

Welcome to Westminster

Our Values: Love, Compassion, Connection, Inclusion, Earth-Care, Service

Our Mission: Show the love of Jesus Christ by welcoming everyone, without exception, into the full life of the church; participating in the joyful worship of God; engaging in regular study, reflection, prayer and sharing of our faith; committing ourselves and our resources to the spiritual and physical needs of our church family and neighbors near and far; seeking to be a good neighbor in our neighborhood.

Sunday worship podcasts are at bit.ly/westpres_online.

For deacon care, please contact Diane Imredy (imredyd57@gmail.com).

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

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