



Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 AT 11AM | 15TH 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

Dot MacArthur, liturgist

(congregation please read bold type)

We gather together as a people marked by love:

Love for our neighbors, both near and far.

We hold fast to perfect love which casts out fear.

Fear has no place here! We rest in the great love of our Lord.

We who feel empty shall be filled by love.

We who feel full shall rejoice! Sharing our love.

The Love of God sustains and guides us;

Let us worship our God of Love.

* Hymn #366

*Love Divine,
All Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

* *You are invited to stand as you are able.*

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, as we celebrate your love, we are also reminded of how our own love falls short. We have shunned opportunities to share. We have withheld what is good. We have chosen anger and self-righteousness. Holy Spirit, in your gentle grace, reveal in us that which needs mending. Show us where our love is lacking so that it may be replaced by your abundance.

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

As we share the peace of Christ with one another, there are several ways we do that here at Westminster. For those who prefer a non-contact sign of peace, crossing your arms over your heart, a wave, or a peace-sign are all great options! Handshakes, elbow-bumps, and hugs with the consent of your neighbor are also welcome.

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!

† *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.

We Hear God's Word

First Reading of The Word **Psalm 119:33-40**

Anthem

*Like a Tree Planted by
the Water*

by Sandra T. Ford

Westminster Choir

Like a tree planted by the water,
may I stay rooted in the love of God.
Like a tree planted by the water,
let me grow in your knowledge, O Lord.

Like a tree planted by the water, standing firm
and thriving through the wind and the rain,
like a tree planted by the water,
let me grow in your knowledge, O Lord.

May my gains reflect your goodness,
my delight be in your law,
your counsel be the course that I embrace.
In your guidance may I flourish,
and each season be enriched,
so my deeds return the harvest of your grace.

Second Reading of the Word **Romans 13:8-14**

Sermon

Neighbor-Love

Nate Veldhoff

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!**

Prayers of the People 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 #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 #697

Take My Life

HENDON

We Go Forth to Serve

* Benediction

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

Postlude

We pray for our Westminster family

Ongoing needs: Fran Bolhouse, Cara & Conn Doane, Anne Gensheimer

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). You can join our email prayer chain by contacting Jill. To keep us current, please share updates on those for whom we are praying.

This Week's News

Help feed hungry folks in Washtenaw County. Pick up a cloth grocery bag in the main entry today and bring it back next Sunday with nonperishable food and personal and household items, for Hope Clinic's food pantry.

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. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help us get a head-count for food.

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.

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.

Our Westminster friends tailgate for the Bowling Green game will be on September 16, 2023 beginning at approximately 2pm (game time is 7:30). We'll start with the light stuff and then plan a more robust meal around 5:00. Come and join us anytime up to game time! Bring a comfortable chair for outdoor seating and a dish to pass (if you are able). All are welcome!

Worship Center resumes September 10. Sundays at 9:30am in Room 43 on the lower level. All children and grandchildren ages 4 years through 5th grade are welcome and encouraged to attend!

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.

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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