



# Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 AT 11AM | 16TH 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

Earl Begg, liturgist

(congregation please read bold type)

*Great is our Lord and greatly to be praised!*

**God's forgiveness and grace endure forever!**

*We are blessed by confidence in mercy.*

**God's forgiveness and grace endure forever!**

*We are blessed by meaningful hope.*

**God's forgiveness and grace endure forever!**

*We are blessed by everlasting welcome.*

**God's forgiveness and grace endure forever!**

*We are blessed by steadfast presence.*

**God's forgiveness and grace endure forever!**

*Together, let us worship our God of blessing!*

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

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, help us to receive and to give the gift of forgiveness. We acknowledge our need for grace. Again. Despite our best efforts, we have come up short on peace, and love, and gentleness, and faithfulness. We try, but these things often seem out of reach, or not worth reaching for. Bring us back, O Lord, to the restful fruits of your Spirit. Forgive us, and restore us anew this day.**

*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!**

## *We Hear God's Word*

First Reading of The Word **Psalm 103:1-13**

Anthem

*This is the Day!*

by Keith Christopher

Westminster Choir

This is the day that the Lord hath made.

This is the day, let us rejoice, let us be glad!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and into his courts with praise.

Offer your thanks unto him and bless his name.

Serve the Lord with gladness, in joyful song.

Tell of his excellent greatness and praise him all day long.

Second Reading of the Word **Matthew 18:21-35**

Sermon

*Forgiveness*

Nate Veldhoff

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† *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 Respond to God's Word

\* Hymn #286

*Breathe on Me,  
Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

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 #53

*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

NOEL

## *We Go Forth to Serve*

### \* Benediction

Friends, may your coming days be shaped by compassion.

May you forge connections that support one another.

May you serve joyfully with one another.

May you notice the creative reflection of God in our earth,  
and would you care for it well.

May you be moved by welcome,  
offering inclusion to those who are left behind.

And surrounding all these things, may you go in love  
which binds it all together.

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

### Postlude

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Our guest preacher this morning is our very own Communications and Media Director, Nate Veldhoff. Nate attended the University of Michigan where he received a degree in Architecture. From there, he immediately pivoted to attend seminary. He completed his Master of Divinity degree from Moody Theological Seminary in the Spring of 2021.

Nate is a self-described "church-staff swiss-army-knife." In addition to serving as Communications Director at Westminster, he also regularly leads worship and preaches at Greenroom Church in Ann Arbor on Monday nights as well as with several other area churches on Sunday mornings. When not in church-world, you can find Nate pouring coffee at Vertex Coffee Roasters in Ann Arbor or playing gigs with several local musicians.

## *This Week's News*

**Shopping bags of nonperishable food** and personal and household items dedicated with our offering today will be given to 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.

**Our Westminster friends tailgate** for the Rutgers game will be on September 23, 2023 beginning at approximately 9:30am. Come and join us anytime between then and gametime! Bring a comfortable chair for outdoor seating and a dish to pass (if you are able). All are welcome!

**Worship Center is back!** 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!

**September Game Night!** Friday, September 22 at 7pm in the fellowship hall. We hope you will join us for a fun time together. Invite friends! Choose from a provided selection of games, or bring a favorite from home. Maybe even bring a yummy snack to share!

## 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. We are currently 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** meets each week 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).

### We pray for our Westminster family

**Ongoing needs:** Donna Greyerbiehl, Jacqueline Hale, Kathy Kamm

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.

## *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](http://bit.ly/westpres_online).

**For deacon care,** please contact Diane Imredy ([imredyd57@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Westminster Staff** may be reached by phone at 734-761-9320

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