



Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 29, 2023 AT 11AM | 22ND 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

Connie George, liturgist

(congregation please read bold type)

The God who is greater than we will ever understand

becomes humble to become one of us.

The God who is more loving than our hearts dare imagine

gives us more grace than we will ever realize.

The God who is wiser than we will ever know

teaches us all we need to become God's children.

Let us worship God!

* Hymn #415

*Come, Ye Sinners,
Poor and Needy*

RESTORATION

Call to Confession

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

Unison Prayer of Confession

They can be such giants in our lives, God of Grace. Each day, our fears, our doubts, our worries wash over us, until we come to believe that you do not care for us. There seems to be so much wrong in the world; we are convinced that there is nothing good we can do. The storms of sin and temptation batter at us, and we cower, unable to find the faith to withstand them. Forgive us, God of Hope. Remind us that if we but open our hearts, you will heal us. If we but listen to your words, we will hear peace and joy.

Silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of God's Presence and Promise

With calming words, with a peaceful Spirit, with overflowing love and hope, our God forgives us and fills us with faith.

Our brokenness is made whole. 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 **Selections from Job 38, 40, 42**

Anthem

How Long

by Pepper Choplin

Westminster Choir

How long, how long 'til this world is free from suffering?
How long, how long 'til blessed peace will reign?
How long, how long 'til the power of love will come
and heaven's will is done?

How long, how long 'til every gun is silenced?
How long, how long 'til hate and war shall end;
'til every battle's thunder will fade to blessed peace
and sounds of war will cease?
How long, how long?

Press on, press on, let faith and hope sustain you.
Press on, press on, keep working for the day
when all of God's children will live in peace as one.
Until the new day comes, press on, press on.

Send me, send me to work for the kingdom.
Send me, send me to go and live for peace.
Until the love of heaven to earth shall descend
and peace will reign again, send me, send me.

Press on, we'll press on.
We will sing a peaceful song!
But still we're praying on
how long? How long?

We Respond to God's Word

* Affirmation of Faith

Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

* Hymn #177

I Will Come to You

YOU ARE MINE

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 #838

Standing on the Promises

PROMISES

We Go Forth to Serve

* Benediction

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

Postlude

Judy is well known to Westminster, having served as Interim Pastor 2015-2018 and Co-Transitional pastor during part of 2018-19. Prior to that she served congregations in Madison and Saline. Now happily retired, she and her husband Bill enjoy family, a cottage up north, and the possibilities of each new day.

This Week's News

Communion is served next Sunday, November 5. You're invited to bring a loaf of fresh-baked bread to worship, which we'll deliver the following Wednesday to guests at Riverside Community Gathering, as a way of sharing the grace of the Lord's table with them.

Our next Westminster tailgate and football parking day is 11/4 for the Purdue game. Kickoff is at 7:30pm, and the lot will be open starting at noon. Tailgate potluck starts at 5pm! Bring a comfortable chair for outdoor seating and a dish to pass (if you are able). All are welcome!

An updated church directory link was sent in the Friday email this week. You can always bookmark the page (bit.ly/westpres-directory). The link will stay constant even when new versions of the directory get published.

Service of Remembrance: Sunday, November 12 at 5pm. This service will be a peaceful and meditative time to remember those we loved and still love. Those from the wider community and those from all faith traditions are welcome. You are invited to bring a small framed photo of your loved one.

House by the Side of the Road is in need of volunteers. Westminster is a founding church and long-time partner for this important ministry providing free clothing and household items for those in need in Washtenaw County. If you're interested in volunteering to help receive, sort, tag, or display donations, contact housebyroad@gmail.com (734-769-4085), or reach out to Kay Tuttle for more info. Thank you for helping to care for our community!

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.

Sunday Children's Worship Center meets in room 43 on the lower level at 9:30 am. Children and grandchildren ages four through 5th grade are welcome!

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 are 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).

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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