



Westminster PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 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

Life of the Church

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Nancy Lunsford, liturgist

Our hearts ache for the pain of the world.

We bring our grief and our longing for healing.

Systems are broken, justice feels far away.

Yet Christ is already at work among the least and the lost.

In worship, we remember who and whose we are.

In worship, we are strengthened to join God's work of peace.

* Lighting of the Peace Candle

As we light our peace candle, let us join together in naming one of the many promises of our faith, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who offers peace.

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

In this light, we remember Christ our peace.

May Christ's peace shine in us and through us.

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

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of justice and mercy,
we confess that we grow weary of the pain of the world.
We turn away from suffering that feels too heavy to carry,
and we doubt that our small efforts can make a difference.
Forgive us when we settle for comfort instead of courage,
when we protect our own peace instead of pursuing yours.
Renew us with your Spirit,
that we may seek justice, love mercy,
and join your work of healing the world.
Amen.**

Silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of Grace

*Hear the good news: Christ meets us in our need,
and God's mercy is wider than our fear.*
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed,
and sent to be peacemakers.**

* 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 **Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**

Anthem

A Gaelic Blessing

by John Rutter

Westminster Choir

Deep peace to you,
Deep peace to you,
Deep peace of the earth to you,
Deep peace of the stars to you,
Deep peace of night to you.
Moon and stars pour light on you,
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you,
Deep peace of Christ to you.

A Moment to Wonder

Children are invited to come forward for a short lesson on the chancel steps.

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

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

We Respond to God's Word

Sacrament of Baptism

Congregational Response #486 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise, v1*

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

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

Offertory

* Song of Response #378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom, v3

**When wars of desolation
and hate come to an end,
when nation meets with nation
and calls the other “friend,”
still peace in all its fullness
will only have begun:
shalom for all creation
begins with justice done.**

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn #766

*The Church of Christ
Cannot Be Bound*

MC KEE

We Go Forth to Serve

* Dismissal

And let all God's people say:
Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude

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.

Baptism Reception: Today, we celebrate the Baptism of Colton Ngo-Nelidov! After worship, there will be a short reception with an opportunity for Terry and Lam to share some stories from Paraguay before they depart again.

Lunches for Hope: The Mission Ministry Team is once again sponsoring Sack Lunches for Hope Clinic. Visit our website or check your Friday email for more info and the signup link. Our goal is to pack 96 lunches! Drop off items at Westminster any time now through Sunday, October 12th.

Earth-Care: As part of the national SUN DAY climate initiative, members of many local faith communities will gather later this afternoon from 2:00-3:30pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd) to share inspiration and actions that address climate change, with speakers and music focused on faith-based climate action. All are welcome to join as we live into our church's value of Earth-Care with others in Ann Arbor.

Game Night! Our next Game Night is coming up on Friday, October 3. 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and join the fun!

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: an opportunity to discuss Sunday's sermon in a small group. 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.

Matthew 25 Study Group meets at 7pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. For meeting information please contact Elizabeth Tidd (lizbeth0405@yahoo.com) or Carol Hufnagel (carol.hufnagel@tetrattech.com).

Thursday Book Club meets weekly at 1pm at Westminster and over Zoom. Please contact Linda Harnisch for more information (rlharnisch@gmail.com).

We pray for our Westminster family

Ongoing needs: Donna Greyerbiehl, Kathy Kamm, Elke Kramer

For deacon care, contact your deacon directly or send an email to the deacon moderator, Janet Eaton (jmfeaton@umich.edu). To list prayer requests here, in the *Friday Good Things Are Happening* email, or Prayer Chain, contact Jill Fairchild (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.

For deacon care, please contact Janet Eaton (jmfeaton@umich.edu).

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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