



# *Westminster* PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 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*

Life of the Church

Prelude

\* Call to Worship

Nancy Lunsford, liturgist

(congregation please read bold type)

*People of God, bless the Lord,*

**Bless God's holy name.**

*The Lord is merciful and gracious,*

**Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

*God does not deal with us according to our sins,*

**Nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

*For as the heavens are high above the earth,*

**So great is God's steadfast love for us.**

*Based on Psalm 103*

\* Hymn #408

*There's a Sweet,  
Sweet Spirit*

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

Call to Confession

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

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you invite us to receive forgiveness, yet we hesitate to share it with others. We carry grudges, use harsh words, and withdraw from those who have wronged us.**

**When we have caused harm, we hesitate to repent because it is hard to admit that we have fallen short. We hide behind excuses and exceptions.**

**Forgive us. Help us to be honest with you and one another. Bind us into restorative relationships. Help us find a way of peace and healing. We humbly seek your help, and your grace. Amen.**

*Silent prayers of confession.*

## Assurance of Grace

*In Christ there is a new creation; the old life is gone, the new life has begun.  
Friends believe the good news:*

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and made whole.**

## \* 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!**

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† *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 Hear God's Word*

First Reading of The Word **Genesis 50:15-21**

Anthem

***Hymn of Grateful Praise***

**by John Carter**

**Westminster Choir**

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine, to our race so freely given,  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

A Moment to Wonder

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

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

Sermon

***Forgive Us Our Debts***

**Rev. Hannah Lundberg**

## *We Respond to God's Word*

\* Hymn #444

*Forgive Our Sins  
as We Forgive*

DETROIT

### 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 #654      *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Hymn #435

*There's a Wideness in  
God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

# We Go Forth to Serve

\* Dismissal

*And let all God's people say:*

**Alleluia! Amen!**

Postlude

*Rejoice, The Lord is King*

Glen Anderson, organ

arr Gordon Young

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*Following the postlude, all are invited to process outside  
as we offer a blessing for the new play structure.*

## *This Week's News*

**Caring for our community:** 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.

**Football Parking:** Our next football parking and tailgate day is September 19 for the UTEP game! Kickoff is at 3:30. We'll start parking cars by 7am, but feel free to stop by any time before kickoff. Bring a comfortable chair for outdoor seating and a dish to pass (if you are able). All are welcome!

**Annual Meeting:** This year's annual meeting will take place next Sunday, September 20th, following worship. We will share lunch together and hear updates from ministry teams, share celebrations from the past year, and conduct church business. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help us plan for food. There are also opportunities to help with food prep, service, and cleanup.

**Listening Circles:** Westminster is launching a time of listening for the congregation to help us identify our future vision of who we want to be going forward. The first step of this process is "listening circles". We encourage all members and attendees of Westminster to participate in order to share your perspectives. The primary date for these listening circles will be October 4 after worship, with alternatives on October 12 (7pm) or October 13 (7pm) over Zoom. Signups are posted on the bulletin board.

**Gemini Concert on the Lawn!** Gemini returns to Westminster on Saturday, October 3, at 3pm. Join us for an afternoon of fun and music for kids and grown-ups alike! As a part of this event, we are inviting the neighborhood to participate in a community food drive benefiting Food Gatherers. Donations of non-perishable food or personal-care items may be brought to Westminster in the two weeks leading up to the concert, or bring a donation day-of. More info about most-needed items can be found at [foodgatherers.org](http://foodgatherers.org).

## *Grow in Faith and Friendship*

**Reading Through the Bible Group** meets Sundays at 9:30am in Room 34 and via Zoom. Contact Marcia Anderson (hilden.anderson@gmail.com; 734-757-4305) for more information.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed** meets in the fellowship hall at 9:30am.

**Children and Youth Faith Formation** meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 9:30am. Contact Cathy Daniels (catld1121@gmail.com) for more info.

**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. 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. Contact Linda Harnisch for more information (rlharnisch@gmail.com).

### **We pray for our Westminster family**

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

For deacon care, contact your deacon directly or send an email to the deacon moderator, Amy Welzenbach (awelzenbach411@gmail.com). 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 [westpresa2.org/online-sermons](http://westpresa2.org/online-sermons).

**For deacon care**, please contact Amy Welzenbach ([awelzenbach411@gmail.com](mailto:awelzenbach411@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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