

# Westminster At Worship

*4th Sunday in Lent*

March 14, 2021

10:30 a.m.



## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is good.

**People: All the time.**

Leader: And all the time,

**People: God is good.**

Leader: Let all God's people cry out in joy:

**People: God's steadfast love endures forever.**

### MUSIC

*"I Will Sing of the Mercies"*

Trio

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are tired of our own grumbling. Though we run around like errant children, we long to return to your warm embrace. Though we act as if the odds are stacked against us, we yearn to rest in the knowledge that your steadfast love endures forever. Though we crouch in the shadows, we long to feel the warmth of your love shining upon us each day.

Lead us from death into life, that we might live as children of light, and serve one another as heirs of your Son, in whose name we pray. — Silent Prayer — Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Believe this good news! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

### **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

#### **Epistle Lesson**

#### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

**2** You were dead through the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. **3** All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us **5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ[a]—by grace you have been saved—

**6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— **9** not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

## **Gospel Lesson**

### **John 3:1-21**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

**3** Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." **4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" **5** Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

**6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' **8** The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **9** Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" **10** Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

**11** "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal

life. **17** “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. **21** But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

## **SERMON**

Rev. Jamie Milton

## **†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from Mark 8:34-37; 1 Corinthians 1; Galatians 6:14

**We believe Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?”**

**We believe that the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. For since, in God’s wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching.**

**For...we proclaim Christ crucified...Christ is God’s power and God’s wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.**

**But as for us, God forbid that we should boast about anything except for the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to us through him, and we have been crucified to the world."**

## **MUSIC**

*"It Is Well With My Soul"*

Trio

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PEOPLE: 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 OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

#### **MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**Wendy Tally**

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of light and love, as Jesus shined your light into our troubled world, may our offering bring rays of your holy light into the dark corners of our world. May these gifts reach the places where the fear of death holds sway, that others may find Christ's life in the midst of their pain. Amen.**

## BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

### HYMN OF DEDICATION

*"We've a Story to Tell the Nations"*  
*Trio*

### CHARGE & BENEDICTION

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All the People

Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

Kathy Elzinga

Nikelle Johnson

Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Peggy Hanson

Wendy Tally

Heather Heidtman

Harold Miller

Judy Harrelson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 14, 2021

**FLOWERS TODAY** are given by Ron and JoAnne Deuscher in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary.

**ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN - PROCESSION OF THE PALMS:** We want ALL our children and youth to be involved in the Procession of the Palms! Please record your children waving palms (there were

some included in the Lent kit that was sent home). Dancing around the yard would be a great backdrop! Send a video to Nikelle (via messenger, text, or email by **Wednesday, March 24**), and we will create a montage of the palms "processing"! (With cool music in the background)

**EASTER FLOWERS:** We are now taking orders for Easter flowers (an order form is in the bulletin). Several of you paid for Easter flowers in 2020, but because of the stay-at-home order in place during that time, we were unable to place the order. If you paid for Easter flowers in 2020 (and did not apply those funds to poinsettias during Christmas), that payment will go toward 2021 flowers.

**THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Join us on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. During the Lenten season, we will explore the book, *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill J. Duffield. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at [parishassoc@wpcbc.org](mailto:parishassoc@wpcbc.org).

**THE WIRED WORD ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Enjoy lively conversations about current events in the news and the Bible passages that relate to those events. Any questions regarding the class or for Zoom information, contact Rev. Linda at 989-686-1360 or email at [parishassoc@wpcbc.org](mailto:parishassoc@wpcbc.org).

**THE BOOK CLUB** will meet Tuesday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss the book, *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett. Books are available at church this month. They are available in the church office for check-out and can be picked up during regular business hours. Contact Nikelle at [cedirector@wpcbc.org](mailto:cedirector@wpcbc.org) to receive Zoom login information.

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK:** Westminster Presbyterian Church - Bay City.

## *This Week at Westminster*

### **Today, Sunday, March 14, 2021**

10:30 a.m.    Worship Service

### **Tuesday, March 16**

10:00 a.m.    Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m.    Session Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 17**

1:00 p.m.    The Wired Word via Zoom

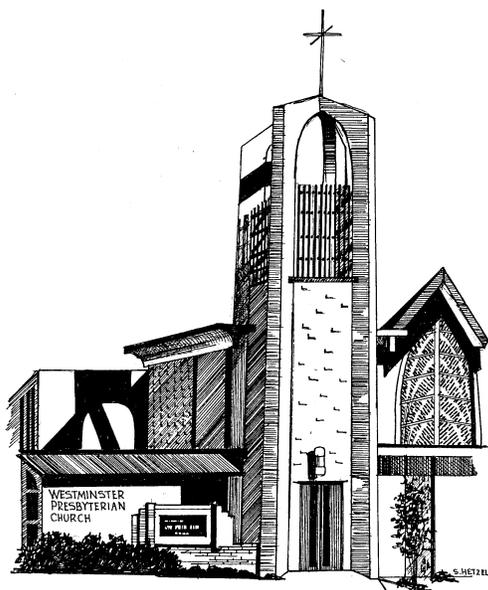
### **Thursday, March 18**

5:00 p.m.    Food of Faith at Messiah Lutheran

7:00 p.m.    Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

### **Next Sunday, March 21**

10:30 a.m.    Worship Service



### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

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### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

lunch 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

