

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship Share the Planet

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Please silence your cell phones prior to entering the sanctuary.
†Those who feel comfortable to stand may do so.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT

INTROIT

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
Adult Bell Choir

EITHUN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: From the mountains in the north,

PEOPLE: and the deserts to the south;

LEADER: from the seas in the west,

PEOPLE: and the prairies to the east;

LEADER: God's people gather to praise and to feast!

PEOPLE: Let us worship God.

†HYMN

“As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought” FOREST GREEN

*As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.*

*A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering that all may truly live.*

*The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.*

*In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.*

*O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we know that you created us in love, to enjoy this
world and you, to serve your creation and your children.**

And we know that we rebel against your will.

With clenched hands, we can neither give nor receive.

With eyes tight shut, we cannot see pain or beauty.

With feet of clay, we cannot dance in joy or run to help.

We ask for your help and your power to change.

**Open our hands and eyes, move our feet toward grace and hope
and trust in you. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

You are freed to love another, for your sins are forgiven by the
mercy of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

†RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE

“Gloria Patri”

GREATOREX

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.*

†SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*“The Butterfly Song”
Sunday School Singers*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Following the message, children fourth grade and younger are welcome to return to their seats or proceed to the PRAYground at the rear of the church where there are quiet activities to help them participate in the worship service.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

**Epistle Lesson
1 Corinthians 12:14-26**

**Gospel Lesson
Matthew 25:14-30**

SERMON

"Share the Planet"
Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

"God of the Fertile Fields"

ITALIAN HYMN

*God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields
our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land
be clothed and fed.*

*We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you
all that you give:
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people everywhere,
that all may live.*

*As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need,
So your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused
your love bestows.*

*God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died
to make us one;
we pledge our lives anew
in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do.
Your will be done.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together.

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

~Please record your presence on the "Friendship Pad"

OFFERTORY

*“In the Garden”
Adult Bell Choir*

DOBRINKSI

†DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We wait in hope for the coming of your realm and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD’S WORD

†HYMN

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

SCHUMANN

*We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.*

*The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.*

*And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be;
whate’er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.*

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



Follow Me: Care for Creation. *2023 Growing Faith Resources.*

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2 © 2014 WJK Press.

Affirmation —Planet Earth Sunday (Australian Version 1), www.seasonofcreation.com

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All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
Tim Rutzen
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Rachel Webb
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Harold Miller

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Office Hours

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

Giving to Westminster

There are many ways to share your gifts with Westminster.

Cash and checks are welcome. Please use your offering envelopes or the envelopes found in pew backs and place your gift in the offering plate when it is passed.

Visit our website www.wpcbc.org and click on the "Give Now" button at the top of the page. This will direct you to our Online Giving Portal or simply scan the QR Code below.

Contributions can also be sent through the mail to the attention of the Church Treasurer.

We're grateful for your gifts, however you choose to give. THANK YOU!



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR APRIL 28, 2024

The **FLOWERS** today are given by Neil and Pat Everson in honor and in memory of their Westminster family.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS: If/when you receive an invoice from Keits Greenhouse for Sunday flowers, **the payment will need to be set to 609 Washington Ave,** not the Euclid address. The Euclid site is now closed.

NURSERY CARE is available for infants and toddlers during the worship service. Our nursery is equipped with a paging system. Quality childcare is provided by Elaine Edwards who is infant/CPR trained.

PER CAPITA 2024 Per capita for 2024 is \$29.50. Remember that Per Capita goes to fund the greater church including our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, which in turn, provides great support to Westminster. **Look for the blue envelopes in the pew backs or in your box of envelopes.**

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

BULLETIN BOARDS: Check out the Church bulletin board just outside the sanctuary for upcoming church events and happenings and the Community bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for events in the area.

NEW BOOK STUDY: If gratitude is good, why is it at times, so hard to do? In *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks. Join us next Tuesday, April 30th at 1:30 p.m. as we begin this journey. Books are available in the office and a full schedule will be in the May Log. Please see Rev. Linda with any questions.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: We'll use our time together on Sunday mornings to focus on another book of the Bible. This session will focus on the book of Ephesians, using the book "Practice Resurrection" by Eugene Peterson as our guide. Books are available in the church office. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Our Thursday evening bible study is held via Zoom. This unit will focus on the Follow Me unit "Care for Creation". The Bible invites us to be good stewards of the Earth. God created and called that creation good. We'll begin by noticing the good all around us and how individually and together we can care for it. The April Log has more details. Books are available in the office. If you would like to be added to the Zoom invitation list, please call Rev. Linda or the church office.

LUNCH & LEARN: Join us Tuesday, April 30th at noon, as we welcome back Judge Charles Binder and Attorney Pat Duggan as we present "A Day in Court" part II. Bring a sack lunch if you wish, beverages and dessert will be provided.

VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN: Bay Shore's Day Camp on the Road is coming to Westminster August 5-8 from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m for fun week of VBS! **There is NO COST!** Click on the QR code to register.



GRADUATION SUNDAY: If you have a family member graduating from high school, college or university this spring, please let the office know. We will be honoring our graduates Sunday, May 19th in worship.