

Westminster At Worship

*A Celebration of Worship
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
"Restore Creation"*

May 5, 2024

10:30 a.m.

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



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: As the sun rises in the morning,

PEOPLE: let all creation worship God.

LEADER: From the highest mountains to the deepest seas,

**PEOPLE: let all creation proclaim the name of the Lord,
for God alone is worthy to be praised.**

LEADER: God alone makes all things new.

PEOPLE: All praise, glory, and honor be yours, forever.

†OPENING HYMN

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" HOLY MANNA

*God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,
we, your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.*

*Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings row on row.
Yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.*

*We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.*

*As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All is not well, Holy God.

Your children die of preventable diseases, while others pop an aspirin for the slightest ache.

Your children live in abject poverty, while others bask in palaces of gold.

Your children cry out, and others turn up the volume to drown out the sound.

All is not well.

We tear each other down.

We abuse your gift of the earth.

We fill our minds with frivolous things, and allow our hearts to remain empty.

All is not well.

So we ask that you forgive us for our part in the misery of the world.

Forgive us for the ways in which we turn from you.

Heal your world, and heal us, that we might go out and be people of salvation, not of destruction.

Through Christ, who makes all things new, who makes all things well, we offer our silent confessions:

— A Time of Silent Confession —

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace as you share that blessing with others and care for this good earth, that all creation may declare God's glory.

Alleluia. Amen. 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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Responsive Psalter Lesson Psalm 146

LEADER: Praise the Lord!

Let my whole being praise the Lord!

**PEOPLE: I will praise the Lord with all my life;
I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.**

LEADER: Don't trust leaders;
don't trust any human beings—
there's no saving help with them!

**PEOPLE: Their breath leaves them,
then they go back to the ground.
On that very same day, their plans die too.**

LEADER: The person whose help is the God of Jacob—
the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God—
is truly happy!

**PEOPLE: God: the maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,**

LEADER: God: who is faithful forever,

PEOPLE: who gives justice to people who are oppressed,

LEADER: who gives bread to people who are starving!

PEOPLE: The Lord: who frees prisoners.

LEADER: The Lord: who makes the blind see.

PEOPLE: The Lord: who straightens up those who are bent low.

LEADER: The Lord: who loves the righteous.

PEOPLE: The Lord: who protects immigrants,

LEADER: who helps orphans and widows,
but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!

PEOPLE: The Lord will rule forever!

LEADER: Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next!

PEOPLE: Praise the Lord!

New Testament Lesson
Revelation 21-22 (selected verses)

SERMON

“Restore Creation”
Rev. Jamie Milton

†HYMN

“This Is My Song”

FINLANDIA

*This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.*

*This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth’s kingdoms:
thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:
myself I give thee; let thy will be done.*

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Creation Will Be at Peace"
Chancel Choir

WILLIAMS & PAGE

~ Please record your presence on the "Friendship Pad" ~

†DOXOLOGY

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

†UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alpha and Omega, from beginning to end, you are our God.

With your abundant love, you bless us beyond measure.

In gratitude, we share these gifts and ask that you use them and use us to achieve your purposes. May all your children receive the inheritance of your peace. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

LEADER: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: We lift them to the Lord.

LEADER: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

LEADER: ... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**PEOPLE: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LEADER: ...Great is the mystery of faith:

**PEOPLE: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

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.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Using either station at the front of the church, you will receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. Please take communion before returning to your seat.

If you wish to remain seated, someone will bring communion to your seat.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, eternal God, that you have fed us in this sacrament.

Fill us with a vision of your new creation where all may have life abundantly; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

†HYMN

"I Come with Joy"

DOVE OF PEACE

*I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.*

†A PRAYER OF HEALING

LEADER: We join with the earth and with each other:

PEOPLE: **to bring new life to the land,
to restore waters,
to refresh air.**

LEADER: We join with the earth and with each other:

PEOPLE: **to renew the forests,
to care for the plants,
to protect the creatures.**

LEADER: We join with the earth and with each other:

**PEOPLE: to celebrate the seas,
to rejoice the sunlight,
to sing the song of the stars.**

LEADER: We join with the earth and with each other:

**PEOPLE: to recall our destiny,
to renew our spirits,
to reinvigorate our bodies.**

LEADER: We join with the earth and with each other:

**PEOPLE: to create the human community,
to promote justice and peace,
to remember our children.**

**PEOPLE: We join together as many and diverse expression of one
loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the
renewal of all life.**

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

SETH CUNNINGHAM



Liturgical texts used with permission from:

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

PCUSA Book of Common Worship. WJK Press. 2018.

The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022. Abingdon Press. 2021.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 WJK Press.

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

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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 gift. We choose to give. THANK



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 5, 2024

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, May 7th at 1:30 p.m. A full schedule is 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: The Follow Me-Care for Creation Bible Study is wrapping up this Thursday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m via Zoom.

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. Please share the school your graduate is graduating from, future plans and a picture, if possible. We will be honoring our graduates Sunday, May 19th in worship.

END OF SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY: Join us **Sunday, June 2nd from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** for our 2nd Annual Block Party. Westminster volunteers we need your help to put on another successful event for students in our community. If you're able to help in any way, please scan the QR code or check out the sign-ups sheets on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.



MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER: Next Sunday, May 12th, we will be collecting new and handmade baby items to donate to the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, The Bay Area Women's Center and Diaper Alliance. A list of suggested items is in the May Log.