

# Westminster At Worship

## *Take a Step Back* *50 Year Member Celebration*

September 25, 2022

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

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### WESTMINSTER AT WORK

#### PRAYER

#### PRELUDE

Rachel Webb

#### †CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Beloved community, let us draw the circle wide!

**PEOPLE: And draw it wider still.**

LEADER: Each of us is here because something draws us to the Divine as expressed in the Person of Jesus.

**PEOPLE: We come to explore what it is that draws us here, in community with neighbors who can teach us what it is that draws them here.**

LEADER: We come with questions, struggles, doubts.

**PEOPLE: We come with unique perspectives that enrich the whole community.**

LEADER: We come in vast diversity of mind, body, being,

**PEOPLE: to live into a unity that does not quell our differences, but celebrates them.**

LEADER: We come to abide in the love of Jesus,

**PEOPLE: and to learn to bear good fruit that lasts.**

LEADER: Come, let us join in worship of the God of love

**PEOPLE: who teaches us what true love is.**

†**OPENING HYMN**

#136

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord, God Almighty”

NICAEA

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and ever more shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee, though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea; Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emboldening God, you have not given us a spirit of fear, and yet we are so often afraid.

We are afraid of what we don't understand.

We are afraid of change.

We are afraid of difference.

You have blessed us with a world full of diversity, but we shrink back and keep our vision small.

Forgive us, boundless God.

Renew in us your Spirit of peace, your Spirit of love.

Inspire our curiosity to ask good questions.

By your strength, we can overcome our fears.

— *A Time of Silent Confession* —

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

#734

*"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 always.

**And also with you.**

**FANNING THE FLAME (BRANDI)**

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Hebrew Lesson  
Isaiah 2:2-4**

**UNISON GOSPEL LESSON     Matthew 5:9**

Please join me in the reading from Matthew 5, verse 9.

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 1:46-55**

**SERMON**

*“Take a Step Back”*

*Rev. Jamie Milton*

**HYMN**

#543

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

GREEN TYLER

*See Insert*

## **†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

**We are created to be in a relationship with God that we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. We are free to seek our life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common well-being, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use our creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.**

**The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which we are reconciled to God and to one another. God enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves. In spite of our sin, God gives us power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all humanity.**

**We, the members of the church, are ambassadors of peace and seek the good of all humanity in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics, fighting against injustices when these same powers endanger human well-being. Our strength is in our confidence that God's purpose rather than our own will finally prevail.**

## 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.

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### CHORAL OFFERING

*"With a Voice of Joy"*

MUSIC BY: PATTI DRENNAN

WORDS BY: J. PAUL WILLIAMS

### †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

Saving God, we do not always know what will come of the gifts we offer,  
but we know that you will work through them,  
to build a world where all are known, loved, and celebrated.  
Thank you for this opportunity to join in this sacred work.  
Amen.

## AFFIRMATION OF DISCIPLESHIP

### RECOGNITION OF 50-YEAR MEMBERS

**HYMN**                    “When Peace Like a River”    #428

VILLE DU HAVRE

*When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea  
billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, “It is well,  
it is well with my soul.”*

*Refrain*

*It is well It is well with my soul, with my soul, it is well, it is well  
with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest  
assurance control: that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and  
has shed his own blood for my soul.*

*Refrain*

*My sin O, the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin not in part but  
the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more: Praise the  
Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*Refrain*

*And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be  
rolled back as a scroll, the trump shall resound and the Lord shall  
descend: “Even so” it is well with my soul.*

*Refrain*

### BEING SENT WITH GOD’S WORD

## †CHARGE & BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Rachel Webb



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BCW: Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018)

Call to Worship by Avery Smith, [www.binarybreakingliturgy.com](http://www.binarybreakingliturgy.com)

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Rev. Jamie Milton

Rev. Linda Williams

John Tapley

Brandi Higgins

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Elaine Edwards

Dawn Auger

Brandi Higgins

Wendy Tally

Rachel Webb

Heather Heidtman

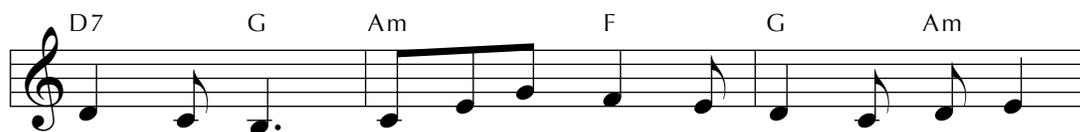
Harold Miller

# God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

## O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

**FLOWERS** today are given by Jim Rowley and family in memory of Elizabeth Rowley.

**50-YEAR MEMBER RECOGNITION:** Please join us today, after worship. The Deacons will serve a picnic lunch in Fellowship Hall honoring our 50-year members. Everyone is invited to join the celebration.

**LUNCH AND LEARN:** Join us this Tuesday in Fellowship Hall at noon. Attorney George Shaw, John Tapley and Pastor Jamie will share information and answer questions about end-of-life planning – advance directives, funeral home arrangements, and funeral/memorial service planning. Please bring a bag lunch. Beverages will be provided.

**RUMMAGE SALE:** Save the date and start setting aside items. The biannual rummage sale is scheduled the first week of October. Please drop off items from Sunday, October 2- Tuesday, October 4. The sale will begin Wednesday October 5 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for church members, with a Bake Sale that evening. The Sale will be open to the public on Thursday, October 5 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Friday, October 6 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**BAKE SALE:** Do you like to bake? Donations greatly appreciated. You can either bring your items to church pre-packaged to sell or bring the entire batch and a volunteer can package them in the kitchen at church. Please have them in the kitchen by October 5th. The Bake Sale will take place during the Rummage Sale.

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

**FALL RETREAT:** Join us October 21-23 at Bay Shore Camp in Sebewaing Michigan for an adults only retreat. A retreat is a great way to slow down, immerse yourself in a new setting and new ideas, and recharge your body and mind. Please see Pastor Jamie or Pastor Linda for more details.

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:** Francis of Assisi was a reformer and renewer of the church in the twelfth century and was known for his love of animals and care for the environment. A growing tradition in many Christian churches is to remember his care for God's creatures by holding a Blessing of the Animals service. Join us on October 9, at 3:00 p.m on the north lawn that will include an individual blessing for each pet present. All animals must be caged or on a leash. You may also bring a photo of your pet if you do not want to bring them to the church.

**JOIN US FOR A HARVEST PARTY & CHILI COOK-OFF CONTEST** following worship on October 30! Games will include mummy bowling, apple toss, pumpkin painting, and more. There will also be costumes available for the kids. See Brandi Higgins or Sandy Graves to enter into the chili cook-off contest.

**PER CAPITA:** Per Capita for 2022 is \$29.00.

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD:** If you are looking for grief support groups, health clinics, or volunteer opportunities that take place within our community, please check out the community bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall.

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

