

Westminster At Worship

A Celebration of Worship

Be Courageous

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

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

GATHERING MUSIC

MARGARET HANSON

PRELUDE

"Dona Nobis"
Adult Bell Choir

ARR. WAGNER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

†CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We gather in the name of Christ to find strength and courage, to proclaim that Jesus is Lord of all.

PEOPLE: Jesus is Lord!

LEADER: We worship in song and silence, praise and proclamation, word and work.

PEOPLE: Jesus is Lord!

LEADER: When we go from this place, we will be bold to do the work to which we are called, fearless disciples who love the world.

PEOPLE: Jesus is Lord!

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not over flow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no, never forsake."*

THE LENTEN CANDLES

Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise—that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, although you have assured us that through your Spirit you are with us always, even to the ends of the earth, we confess that we are timid. When called to action, we hold back, worried what others might think. When we could speak out for justice, we are cautious and fearful. Forgive us, God. Lead us to righteous actions in your name. Empower us to words that inspire justice and loving kindness for all your creation. Grant us courage and determination to be co-workers in justice as we follow Jesus, in whose name we pray.

— *A Time of Silent Confession* —

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Be not afraid, for we are forgiven, and God is with us!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

†RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

(all sing, one time through)

"We Are Forgiven"

WE ARE FORGIVEN

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

†SHARING GOD'S PEACE

May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

FANNING THE FLAME

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Lesson
Philippians 1:14-21

Second Lesson
Acts 6:8-7:2, 51-60

SERMON

"Be Courageous"
Rev. Jamie Milton

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD WITH THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

ANTHEM

"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"

WAGNER

Adult Bell Choir

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

DOBRINSKI

Adult Bell Choir

†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

Loving God, someone once asked the question, “If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”

We hope there would, Holy One. May our homes and our hearts, our way of life, our bank accounts, and our actions demonstrate our love for you, for all we are and all we have belongs to you. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD’S WORD

†HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

†CHARGE & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE

ADULT BELL CHOIR



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Congregational Guide; *Follow Me—Love God, Neighbor, Enemy* © 2022 Growing Faith Resources.
Book of Common Worship (2018). WJK Press.

MINISTERS

PASTOR

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CHOIR DIRECTOR

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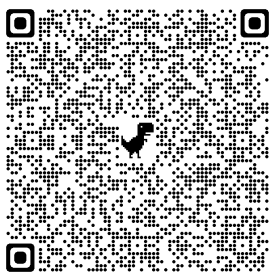
FACILITIES MANAGER

All the People
Rev. Jamie Milton
Rev. Linda Williams
Karen Schoeppach
Brandi Higgins
Elaine Edwards
Dawn Auger
Brandi Higgins
Margaret Hanson
Heather Heidtman
Harold Miller

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

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website: wpcbc.org

Office Hours

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 19, 2023

The **FLOWERS** this morning are given by Judy Randall in memory of John Randall.

In honor of Women's History month, we will be showing the critically acclaimed movie, **WOMEN TALKING** on Tuesday, March 21st at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Nominated for 2 Academy Awards, this film, inspired by true events, centers around women in an isolated Mennonite community as they try and reconcile their faith with their reality, and move forward after a series of horrific events.

LUNCH & LEARN: Come join us, Tuesday, March 28th at noon in Fellowship Hall. We will welcome Mrs. Beth Cook, from the local Jewish faith community; giving us an opportunity to learn more about the Jewish faith, traditions and practices. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

MEALS FOR SUNDAY NIGHTS: There are still a few more spots available to provide dinner for our Ignite Youth Group on Sunday evenings. If you are willing to prepare a hot meal (or take out works too!) please contact Brandi at youthdirector@wpcbc.org or Heather at office@wpcbc.org to sign up for a Sunday night meal! Thank you to everyone who has signed up or donated money for meals.

PERSONNEL UPDATE: The Personnel Committee continues the search for a church organist and is the process of interviewing candidates to help Heather in the office. The Committee will keep the congregation informed of any updates.

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

RUMMAGE SALE: Save the dates and start saving those gently used items. Our Presbyterian Women will be hosting their biannual Rummage Sale, the **first week in May**.

PER CAPITA 2023 Per capita for 2023 is \$29.77. 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.

LENTEN STUDY (Sundays): Join us Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room, as we offer a time of reflection and conversation using the book **When True Simplicity is Gained: Finding Spiritual Clarity in a Complex World**. Please see Rev. Linda or call the church office for more details.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (Thursdays): Starting Thursday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, we will continue the Follow Me/Follow Jesus curriculum. During Lent we are focusing on the theme "Love God, Neighbor, Enemy."

PRAYER AND PRACTICE STATIONS: Weekdays during Lent a series of prayer and practice stations will be set up in the chapel. Each station will focus on a different discipline and provide a hands-on way to engage in that practice. The stations will be accessible from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m Monday-Thursday during the month of March.

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.