

Westminster At Worship

5th Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

10:30 a.m.



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WESTMINSTER AT WORK - Spiritual Growth Committee Update

PRELUDE

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Have mercy on your people, O God.

People: Wash us. Cleanse us. Make us more perfect in your love.

Leader: Open the skies and pour down your grace upon your people.

People: Open our hearts to hear your voice. Let the thunder of your presence awaken us!

Leader: Have mercy on your people, O God.

People: Restore within us the joy of your salvation. Draw us nearer to Jesus, our Christ!

MUSIC

"My Savior's Love"

Trio

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of steadfast love and mercy, we have shielded our eyes from the evil and injustice in the world. We have turned away from your forgiveness and your compassion, and from your wisdom and your guidance.

We have allowed our voices to be silent.

Cleanse us.

Purify us.

**Remind us that we still have much to learn, and that you
continue to teach. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that our faith
in you might be renewed. In humble confidence, we pray.**

— *Silent Prayer* —

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

First Psalter Lesson

Psalm 51:1-12

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. **5** Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. **6** You desire truth in the inward being;

therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. **8** Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. **9** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. **10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. **12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Second Psalter Lesson

Psalm 133

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! **2** It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. **3** It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Gospel Lesson

John 12:20-33

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. **21** They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **22** Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27 “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. **28** Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” **29** The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” **30** Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. **31** Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. **32** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” **33** He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON

“Hating Our Life in This World”

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

"Be Thou My Vision"
Hand Bell Choir

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

Generous and all-loving God, grant us the wisdom to know you more completely. Give us the hope to live as your people. Inspire us to give of our spirits more fully, in the faith that your promise is already with us.

As we give our gifts and tithes today, we recommit ourselves to your service and to the service of your people. May we do so in response to your unending call that beckons us and leads us home. We pray as followers of the glorified Christ. Amen.

BEING SENT WITH GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

"Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"

Trio

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

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Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 @ 2014

Westminster John Knox Press.

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All the People

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Judy Harrelson

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 21, 2021

PRAYERS of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of JoAnne Deuscher. JoAnne passed away on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

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)

HOPE TOTES: Westminster is collecting Hope Totes for the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Each family or individual checking in for emergency shelter receives a Hope & Care Tote filled with brand new hygiene products. Please help us meet the basic needs of those experiencing homelessness. Bags and a list of needed products are located in the Wenona and Dewitt Street entrances. Please return Hope Totes to the church office by Wednesday, March 31. Thank you!

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.

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.

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 to receive Zoom login information.

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

This Week at Westminster

Today, Sunday, March 21, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, March 23

6:00 p.m. Book Club via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle via Zoom

Wednesday, March 24

1:00 p.m. The Wired Word via Zoom

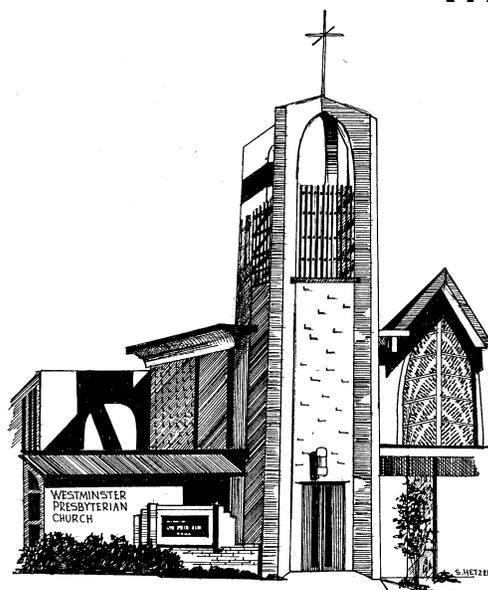
Thursday, March 25

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

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

Next Sunday, March 28

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.

