***Westminster Presbyterian Church***

222 Schoolhouse Lane ~ Columbus, OH 43228 ~ 614-878-4623 ~ westminstercolumbus.org

Disciples – Everyone here!

January 26, 2025 10:30 a.m. Third Sunday after Epiphany

**As we prepare to worship -** Paul wrote: “I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us” (Philippians 3:13-14 NLT).

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**Ringing the church bell calls us to worship**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude**

\***Call to Worship** Liturgist Karen Flowers

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

**As the day rises to meet the sun.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

\***Hymn** “Lord, I Want to be a Christian” **# 729**

 “Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph 5:18-19)

**Call to Confession** (Please be seated) Psalm 91:1-4

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High abides under the shadow of the Almighty. Say to the Lord “You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.” God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence. God will cover you with his wings, and you shall find refuge under his wings. God’s faithfulness shall rescue you from hidden traps and shield you from deadly hazards. God’s huge outstretched arms protect you - under them you're perfectly safe; God’s arms fend off all harm.

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**We confess we are overwhelmed by our worst moments - the times we are at a loss for words, the times we cannot seem to pray, the times we feel most alone and rejected by our friends. Show us how not to let those worst moments define us. Show us where our trust in You can grow this week. Show us how our stories are not determined by our failures. Take away our guilt, our shame and our regrets. Send your risen Christ again and again to us during this coming week so we will experience and see resurrection happening right here and right now. Hear our silent prayers of confession…**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

from *Strength to Love* by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

 “If you love those who love you, what’s so great about that?” (Matthew 5:46) “We see our enemies in a new light. We recognize that their hate grows out of fear, pride, ignorance, prejudice, and misunderstanding, but in spite of this, we know God’s image is ineffably etched in their being. Then we love our enemies by realizing that they are not totally bad and that they are not beyond the reach of God’s redemptive love.” Because of this incredible redemptive power of God’s love, we ar forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Joyful Response** “You Belong to Christ” **# 492**

(based on Galatians 3:27 + 29 and I Corinthians 3:23)

**\*Pass the Peace of Christ**

The Peace of the Lord be with you. And also with you.

**Layperson of the Year Award** – by Carol Jones (our last recipient)

**Prayer for Illumination**

Let us pray. Though you are worthy of trumpets and the song of angels, You graciously receive our daily prayers of whispered words and mundane habits. Enable us, Lord, to love you with all that we are in all that we do. Teach us through your words of Scripture how we might truly pray without ceasing and live faithfully as your disciples. Send your Holy Spirit to us in these Scriptures. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Joshua 24:14-28

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Unison Prayer –** “The Thomas Merton Prayer” from *Thoughts in Solitude*

**My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 10:25-37

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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\***Sermon** “Be the Church - Little Things Make a Big Difference”

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

and with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind;

and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

(Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19)

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor

\*Hymn “More Love to Thee, O Christ” # 828

Poetry reading from Jay Becker (Karen Flowers’ father) and a gift

Invitation to Our Joyful and Generous Stewardship Together

*The Cat Who Taught Zen* by James Norbury. A lady with no money.

“She helped those who needed it, for she was wise and she knew that was where happiness dwelt.” Each of you possess a treasure which God has given you to share.

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” # 606

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Lord, there is nothing we have that we have not received as a gift from You. Unclutch our fingers; help us to let go of things and hold on to one another. Bless these gifts to your purposes. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

Our prayers of intercession and petition, our prayers of thanksgiving and praise…

**Prayer Chorus** “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” **# 469**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn** “O For a World” **# 372**

**\*Responsive Benediction**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

**wherever God may send us.**

May God guide you through the wilderness

**and protect us through the storm.**

May God bring you home rejoicing

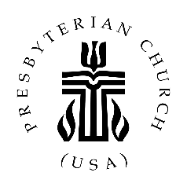
**at the wonders God has shown you.**

May God bring you home rejoicing

**once again into our doors. Amen.**

**\*Postlude**

You may be seated for our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. Visitors and friends are invited to remain for the meeting and to watch a power point review of 2024 with photos of our work together. Join us for a **soup and salad Luncheon** prepared by our Deacons downstairs.



Westminster Presbyterian Church was founded December 4, 1955

We are one of eighty-three member congregations

of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley; and the

Synod of the Covenant – 11 presbyteries and nearly 700 congregations

mainly in Ohio and Michigan

Our Mission - our purpose

To bring God’s word to everyone, that God loves **everyone**, including you. The Gospel calls us not to just preach, but also to practice Christ’s compassion for all by serving others and leaving no one out.

Vision – our roadmap

The vision of Westminster Presbyterian Church is to build our community of Christ with love and care. We are committed to reaching across the street, and around the world to proclaim the Gospel.

**Serving Westminster Presbyterian Church**

Our Session - Elders – Linda Crumley, Trent Rowe, Karen Flowers & Lynne Kelly (Clerk)

Our Deacons - Jim Benney, Carol Jones, Marsha Ross & Joyce Sizemore

Church staff – Karen Flowers, Sexton Rene Miller, Treasurer

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor Olivia Mitchem, Pianist

**Announcements**

Tuesday – **Book Discussion Group**

Do something today your “tomorrow self” will thank you for. (Ava Shaffer, Cincinnati)

A prayer to use at home: Gracious God, because You created us in your image, by your love You made us; You made us to love others; You made us to be loved. We confess that so often our lives are shaped by other powers and desires: fear, despair, anger or greed. Yet your steadfast love comes to us in Jesus so that we can be born again by love and love again like You. Forgive us for the ways we resist your love and grace. Help us to let your love make its home among us. Pry open the doors of our hearts to love others, so You can love them through us. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and our Savior. Amen.

Anyone with ideas for our **70th Anniversary** celebration in 2025 is welcome to share thoughts or serve on a planning committee. Please see Pastor Jon.

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance -** Financial support for relief efforts for victims of fires in California can be designated to DR000165, and given at pcusa.org and click on “Give now.”

Next week’s **sermon**, “With Our Eyes Fixed on Jesus”is based on“And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.” Please read I Corinthians 13:1-13 and Luke 4:20-30 in preparation. Communion will be celebrated.

Copies of our **Annual Report, Westminster Contact List** and our **Pictorial Directory** are available at the back of the sanctuary.