

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Disciples – Everyone here!

October 13, 2024

20th Sunday after Pentecost

As we prepare to worship - "In the morning while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed." (Mark 1:35)

Ringing the church bell calls us to worship Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship** Psalm 136 *The Message* Liturgist Carol Jones

Thank God! He deserves your thanks.

His love never quits.

Thank the God of all gods,

His love never quits.

Thank the Lord of all lords.

His love never quits.

Thank the miracle-working God,

His love never quits.

The God whose skill formed the cosmos,

His love never quits.

The God who laid out earth on ocean foundations,

His love never quits.

The God who filled the skies with light,

His love never quits.

***Hymn** "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine" # 839

Call to Confession (Please be seated) Psalm 32:3-5

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Responsive Prayer of Confession Reading of Psalms 22 & 23

Molly Baskette, a pastor in California, puts Psalm 22 and Psalm 23 side by side to reflect the ups and downs of our lives. In Psalm 22 we hear

Jesus' words from the cross "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" In response we hear Jesus inviting us to declare our faith in him as our Shepherd, from Psalm 23. Let us join in praying our two Psalms together.

Oh my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but find no rest.

God makes me lie down in green pastures; leads me beside still waters.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me, your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

I am a worm, and not human. Scorned by others; and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, you anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, it is melted within my breast.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.

...a time of silent prayer...

Declaration of Forgiveness from Samuel Wells

As water is poured in the baptismal font, reminding us of our baptisms, let your heart expand to love more. Let your mind encompass different ideas. "We believe we're going to spend eternity together. So we'd best start getting along today. Because Christianity's about living God's future now."

Because of Jesus Christ, and his grace,
we are all forgiven. Thank you, God!

***Joyful Response** "We Are Forgiven" # 447

***Pass the Peace of Christ**

At least since the 4th century, Jesus' disciples have been passing the peace through an embrace and kiss as a sign of the peace Christ gives. "It is the peace of Christ which unites us" (I Peter 5:14) and "the peace of Christ which guards our hearts and minds" (Philippians 4:7).

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

Prayer for Illumination Paul Baloche, "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"
Let us pray. Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart. I want to see you. Pour out your power and love as we sing "Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. I want to see you." Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 25:19-26 God is moved by Isaac's prayer

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

Gospel Lesson Matthew 7:7-14 Jesus teaches about asking, seeking, knocking

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

Sermon "Don't Bargain with God. Be Direct"

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need." (Matthew 7:7)
Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor

Our **time of silence:** Sometimes we need an outline for our prayers. St. Ignatius, a Spanish priest, founded the religious order of the Society of Joseph – Jesuits - in 1541. He developed a five-part evening prayer **EXAMEN.** While I am asking you to take this home for your morning or evening prayers, become familiar with the five parts now. Ask God for light. Give thanks. Review the day. You are not your shortcomings. Look toward the day to come.



"The Sacrifice of Isaac" 1598, Michelangelo Caravaggio



Isaac Blesses Jacob



Isaac Meets Rebekah

"Lord, you know what I want. If it is your will that I have it, or if it is not your will, do not be displeased with my prayer, for I do not want anything that you do not want," Julian of Norwich, 11343-1413, a Benedictine nun.

*Hymn "As the Deer" # 626 (Psalm 42)

Moment for Mission – Peace and Global Witness Offering (see insert)

Rev. Greg and Chris Callison were invited by the Presbyterian Church of Iraq to continue to witness to Christians among Kurds, who are mostly Muslim and one of the world's largest unreached people groups. But they were also invited to come to Iraq to walk alongside Christians (about 3% of the population) who are coming into the Kurdish controlled region to escape violence elsewhere in the country. Among those Christians are Presbyterians, who have been in Iraq since the mid-1800s.

Invitation to Our Joyful and Generous Stewardship Together from Mother Teresa

"You should pray and meditate every day, so you know that you are loved, so you feel the presence of God's love in your life. This is the only way you can truly help others and serve the poorest of the poor. We have to give from a full heart, one that is saturated with love, overflowing to others. Before we can give freely, we have to know that we are loved."

Offertory

***Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" # 606

***Prayer of Dedication** from "A Season of Peace" "Sowing the seeds of Peace" (Zechariah 8:12)

God of Every Nation, we thank you for the gift of diversity, and we commit to a future where all people, equal in your sight, are treated as equal in our world. Bless us by your Holy Spirit to be agents of change as we work to live out your reign in this place today and every day. God, you are the bringer of peace. We recommit ourselves to you as you bring peace to our world. May the works of our hands, the marching of our feet and the meditations of our hearts join with you as we sow the seeds of peace only you can bring. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer Chorus "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" # 469

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (beginning with a prayer by Thomas Merton)

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 and I do not really know myself. And the fact that I am trying to follow your will does not mean that I am actually pleasing you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I do. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. I know you will lead me on the right road even if I choose the wrong path. Therefore I will trust you always, even though I seem lost in the valley of the shadow of death. And I know you will never leave me to face my perils alone...

***Hymn** "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" # 408

***Benediction** – Ephesians 3:20-21

***Postlude**



Westminster Presbyterian Church is one of eighty-four member congregations of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.
Founded April 8, 1956

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 - Trent Rowe, Karen Flowers & Lynne Kelly (Clerk)

Our Deacons - Jim Benney, Pam Johnston, Carol Jones & Joyce Sizemore

Church staff – Karen Flowers, Sexton Rene Miller, Treasurer
Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor Olivia Mitchem, Pianist

Announcements

"Pray without ceasing." Have your eyes been opened to the needs and joys of others at Westminster Presbyterian? Have you considered it a privilege to pray for others? Have you enjoyed praying for your siblings-in-Christ? Pray today for Craig Stephens and Kathy Stephens on Monday, Diane Trout on Tuesday, Jean Wills on Wednesday, Linda Witten on Thursday, Michael Yalley on Friday and Ann Parsons on Saturday. Praise God for opening your heart in prayer during all these ten weeks of prayer!

Next Sunday:

Please pray for a pure heart of generosity before completing your 2025 Pledge Commitment. Pledges will be dedicated.

in preparation for Pastor Jon's **sermon** next week "They've Taken Away My Lord" please read John 20:11-16 and Romans 13:1-7. "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him" (John 20:13). Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God," (Romans 13:1). In America is Jesus the victim of identity theft by Christian nationalists?

Coats For Kids Coat Drive – Shopper's Tip This week's shopper's tip: Costco has a Lands End Youth Parka for \$21.99. If you order online and spend \$40 or more (that is two coats!), then you get \$10 off. These make great jackets for the Coat Drive!

Sister Joan Chittister "Being committed to something keeps life expanding for us, even when we think that there's nowhere else for it to go. Purpose gives us a sense of importance, of wanting to do even more, even better the next time, no matter how many things we've done already. Finally, a sense of purpose, of resolve, makes getting up every morning worthwhile, win or lose... Your heart is the real compass of your life."

Lunch Bunch, Tuesday Oct 15th – 11:30am @ The Olive Garden in Hilliard