

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Disciples – Everyone here!

February 23, 2025 10:30 A.M. Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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Jim Benney is our Greeter/Usher and Pam Johnston is our liturgist
this morning.

As we prepare to worship - O Savior, in this quiet place, where anyone may kneel, we have come to ask for grace, believing You can heal. But if the thing I most desire is not your way for me, may faith, when tested in the fire, prove its integrity. Of all my prayers, may this be chief: till faith is fully grown, Lord, disbelieve my unbelief and claim me as Your own. Amen.
(#390 "O Savior, in This Quiet Place)

Ringing the church bell calls us to worship Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship** Psalm 20:5-8

We will shout for joy at your victory and triumph in the name of our God;

May the Lord grant all your requests.

Now I know that the Lord gives victory to his anointed;

The Lord will answer him out of his holy heaven, with the victorious strength of his right hand.

Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses;

But we will call upon the name of the Lord our God.

They collapse and fall down,

But we will arise and stand upright.

O Lord, give freedom to your people;

And answer us when we call.

***Hymn** "Morning Has Broken" #664

Call to Confession (Please be seated)

Are we afraid of failing? Can we try to reach out to our neighborhood? What about a 70th anniversary celebration different than we've done before? What would we want to say about Westminster on a T-shirt that both invites others to participate here and lets others know our identity as a church? Here is a promise for you to stand on: "The Lord directs the steps

of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand." (Psalm 37: 23-24 NLT)

Unison Prayer of Confession

Deep down in places we don't want to go, we want our enemies to suffer and those who sin to be punished by God. Let us confess in the words of the 59th Psalm.

My merciful God comes to meet me.

God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

Slay them, O God, lest my people forget.

Send them reeling by your might and put them down, O Lord our shield.

For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips, for the cursing and lies that they utter,

Let them be caught in their pride.

Make an end of them in your wrath.

Make an end of them, and they shall be no more.

My eyes are fixed on you, my strength,

For you, O God, are my stronghold.

Hear our silent prayers...

Declaration of Forgiveness The Serenity Prayer, perhaps by Reinhold Niebuhr
Because of the incredible love of God through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven for wanting our enemies to suffer.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

***Joyful Response** stanza 5 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" # 306
**From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

***Pass the Peace of Christ**

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

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray. Gracious God, we pause for a moment, to pay attention to the gift of breath, which is as ancient as we are old, as new as this morning's dawn. (Breathe)

By your Spirit, your Word is made new. In the hearing of Scripture, ancient and new, may we be moved to speak the truth in loving kindness,

obey the law of your love, and keep your peace that passes all understanding. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 45:3-11, 15

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

Introduction to the Gospel – being judgmental

From Sylvia G. Dunstan from "You Walk along Our Shoreline"

We cast our net, O Jesus; we cry the kingdom's name;

We work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain.

You call us, Lord, together God's daughters and God's sons,

To let your judgment heal us so that all may be as one.

Gospel Lesson Luke 6:27-38

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

***Sermon** "I Am Judgmental!"

³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:36-37)

Being judgmental of judgmental people is my sin.

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor

***Hymn** "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" **#707**

Invitation to Our Joyful and Generous Stewardship Together

"Forgive us our debts." Debt has been a criminal offense for thousands of years. In ancient Greece, debtors worked as slaves for their creditors. In colonial America, some debtors were branded or whipped in public, but most were thrown in jail. In fact, debt was the only crime for which long-term imprisonment was common. The financial crisis of 1819 especially hurt farmers, and many common people were sent to debtors' prison. Senator Richard Johnson was outraged. In 1821, he was responsible for outlawing debtors' prison in Kentucky, the first state to abolish debtors' prison. "If there is among you a poor person among your neighbors... you shall not harden your heart nor clutch your hand from your poor brothers and sisters" (Deuteronomy 15:7).

Offertory

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

606

***Prayer of Dedication**

When our eyes are fixed on our possessions, we cannot see You. When our eyes are fixed on You, O God, You are our stronghold. These gifts are yours. We let them go. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns quotation from Tim O'Brien

When we make a prayer request, we are confessing a need, a need that will be lived out through ourselves and others. "When you pray, move your feet."

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

A Story about "balm"

Grammar's Salve

Friendship is certainly the finest *balm* for the pangs of disappointed love.—Jane Austen

***Hymn** "There Is a Balm in Gilead" **#792**

***Charge** "Servant Song" by Richard Gillard

God stretches out the universe –

and washes our feet with God's hands."

Friends and neighbors, will you let me be your servant? Will you let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.

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***Benediction**

***Postlude**



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

Next Sunday is Communion. Pastor Jon's Transfiguration Sunday sermon is from Luke 9:33 "Grieving Change and Loss." "When Moses and Elijah had left, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'" To help you prepare, please read Exodus 34:29-35 and Lk 9:28-36.