

# *Westminster Presbyterian Church*

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

Disciples – Everyone here!

March 2, 2025 10:30 A.M. Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

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Jim Benney is our Greeter/Usher and Pam Johnston is our Liturgist.

**As we prepare to worship** – “When I love people, then I find God in me... If you love somebody, you never give up on that person... Love is never imposed, it’s always offered. (Howard Thurman and James Finley)

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

### **Welcome**

Give us more light about each other, O Lord, that we might understand them enough to love them.

### **Announcements**

### **Prayer requests – joys and concerns**

## **Prelude**

**\*Call to Worship** Carl P. Law, Jr., God made known at the Transfiguration  
Sing of God made manifest on the cloud-capped mountain’s crest.

**Where the law and prophets waned so that Christ alone remained.**

Glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face  
**towards the waiting cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.**

Let us join Jesus and three disciples on the mountaintop!

**\*Hymn** “Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining” (Shine, Jesus, Shine)  
**#192**

## **Call to Confession** (Please be seated)

from Howard Thurman *The Way of the Mystics*

“It is wonderful, therefore, to sit together, to be enveloped by a single moment, and feel the presence, and sense the lights and shadows of those who sit near us. It is good to be caught in the creative silence, surrounded by the brooding presence of God. And perchance, as we wait together in the quietness, some new light may be thrown upon old problems, some fresh hope may give wings to spirit to those for whom despair is familiar. Perhaps a sense of forgiveness for sins committed, for errors done, for blundering

stupidities that have wrought havoc in other people's lives. All this may be the miracle for us, as we wait together in the quietness."

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

**O love of God, without which life has no meaning, and no harbor, leave us not alone with our little lives, our broken dreams, our insistent problems, but invade our spirit with thy vitality, that we may be renewed in all the ways of our lives, that we may turn from this place, this day, with all that is within us, washed and purified and refreshed. We seek this with simplicity of heart, and with quiet faith and confidence that thou would not deny thy love to thy children...**

...a time of silent prayer...

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Beloved, God hears us when we cry out. God knows our hearts, despite our failures. God treasures the beings God created. You are forgiven. We are forgiven. Let us live in this peace and find the courage to try again to usher in God's kingdom, knowing that we will fail again. God transforms us through the acts of trying again and again to love and be loved. Because of Jesus Christ, and by his grace, we are all forgiven.

**Thank you, God!**

**\*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. Loving God, in this dark world, make these holy words give light to my path and love to my soul. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson** Exodus 34:29-35 Moses Down from the Mountain  
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 9:28-36 Jesus Is Transfigured on the Mountain  
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon** "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.'" (Luke 9:33)  
How does the promise of the resurrection help us to grieve changes and losses in our lives?

## **\*Statement of Faith**

**We believe we are walking side by side on a journey of grieving change and loss. We believe many of our friends choose to walk this journey alone. We believe we need as much to give comfort to others as we need to be comforted by them. We believe the denial of this journey is actually the first step of our grief. We believe in God's promise to be present with us – "Lo, I am with you always" – will be fulfilled through our daily reading of Scripture and prayer, and through whatever ways we choose to share our individual journey with others. We believe that searching for meaning through our pain will empower us to actually journey with Jesus on his road to Easter and resurrection. This we believe together, as the Body of Christ. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Our Joyful and Generous Stewardship Together**

All that we have and all we will ever have has been a gift from God. In gratitude, let us gather our tithes and offerings and re-dedicate our lives, our thought and our actions, to share the love of Christ in a hurting world.

## **Offertory**

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

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Without your generosity, Lord, we could not be generous. Without your love, we could not be loving. Multiply these gifts to heal bodies and spirits. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair" #189

(Olivia singing stanzas 1, 3 and 5;

**congregation reading stanzas 2 and 4)**

## **The Invitation to the Lord's Supper**

All who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and confess their sins are invited by him to come to his table. Am I willing to be broken bread and poured out wine for Him?

A Communion story.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**... 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.**

Acclamation of Faith

According to Christ's commandment:

**#553** "Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen; Christ Will Come Again"

The Words of Institution and Celebration of the Feast

Please hold on to the bread until all have been served. Hold onto the juice until all have been served. We will eat the bread together and drink the juice together as the Body of Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**\*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, Pastor      Olivia Mitchem, Pianist

## **Announcements**

**Ash Wednesday**, March 5, marks the beginning of Lent. Galloway Presbyterian Church has invited us to join them for worship at noon, 6191 Hall Road. "We have all caused brokenness and we all are in need of healing." Ashes on our foreheads is a sign of our repentance.

Saturday – March 8 – 2:00 **Baby Shower** for Aria Jade Erin Rowe, born December 16<sup>th</sup>, daughter of Bekah & Lucas, granddaughter of Melinda & Trent.

Next Sunday – March 9 - **10:00 Fellowship** in the hallway by the front doors. To be "good soil for God's Word" next week, read Luke 4:1-13, the Temptations of Jesus (and our temptations as well). Pastor Jon's sermon will be "Singleheartedness."

Sundays – March 16 and 23 – 9:45-10:15 **Bible Study with Pastor Jon**; room 104) upstairs and down the hall.

Upcoming: **Four Fish Fry Fridays** March 21-April 11 @ 5PM. Sometimes we play a game or two or talk about upcoming Flea Fantasia and sometimes we just fellowship. Come join the fun and invite a friend!

Who would be interested in having a one-hour **Zoom Fellowship** some afternoon – to chat or ask questions or simply to check in on one another? Tell Pastor Jon today if you're interested.

**"Grieving Change and Loss"** is our forty-day journey together with daily devotions emailed to each person at Westminster. Paper copies are also available today. Devotions start on March 5, Ash Wednesday. During this Lenten journey, you may want to consider pairing up with someone else at Westminster, maybe even someone you don't know too well, and covenant together to contact each other at least once during each week to share about one of your daily readings.