

# *Westminster Presbyterian Church*

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

Disciples – Everyone here!

March 9, 2025 10:30 A.M. First Sunday in Lent

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Marsha Ross is our Greeter/Usher and Carol Jones is our Liturgist.

**As we prepare to worship** - "Father God, I ask You to lead me when I'm blinded by ways I have not known, along unfamiliar paths please guide me; Lord, turn the darkness into light before me and make the rough places smooth. I pray these are the things You will do; I know You will not forsake me." (Isaiah 42:16) Amen. (Beth Moore)

## **Ringing the church bell calls us to worship Welcome & Announcements**

### **An Invitation our Lenten Journey Together** *from Common Prayer*

Lent began on Ash Wednesday and is a forty-day season of reflection and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. During this time of repentance (not a common practice in America!) we consider the sufferings of Jesus and rethink how we take up our own crosses. It is a good season to rethink how we live and to let some things go and maybe even to develop some new holy habits as acts of love for others and yourself.

### **Prelude**

Music. "Music stirs our hearts and engages our souls in ways we can't describe. When this happens, we are taken beyond our earthly banishment back to the divine melody Adam knew when he sang with the angels, when he was whole in God, before his exile." (Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179)

### **\*Call to Worship** Psalm 105:1-2; 108:2-4

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

**Make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to him, sing praises to God;

**And speak of all of God's marvelous works.**

Wake up, my spirit; awake, lute and harp;

**I myself will wake in the dawn.**

I will confess you among the peoples, O Lord.

**I will sing praises to you among the nations.**

For your loving-kindness is greater than the heavens;

**And your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

**\*Hymn** "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days" #166

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

Vince Amlin, "Can You Keep a Secret?" Psalm 32:3-5

Jesus did not keep his temptations secret! How else would we have known about them? No one else was there. Secrets are destructive – to families, to congregations, to countries. Secrets divide us. Secrets push us to lie to each other. "But here's the secret about secrets. They are never as powerful as when they are hidden. The moment they are shared, they begin to waste away. Share your secret temptations, and let the healing begin."

**Come, Ye Sinners**

F B $\flat$  F C B $\flat$  F

6 B $\flat$  F C B $\flat$  F Am Dm

11 Am Dm B $\flat$  C Dm B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F

Come, ye sin-ners, poor and need- y, weak and wound- ed, sick and sore. Je- sus read- y stands to  
save you, full of pit - y, love, and power. He is a - ble, he is a - ble, he is  
will- ing, doubt no more. He is a - ble, he is a - ble he is will- ing, doubt no more.

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Give us more light to understand each other, that we might understand enough to love them. We confess we give up too easily on people who confuse us or make us angry or make us frustrated. You don't ever give up on us. Keep reminding us not to give up on one another. They are in your hands and you put them into our lives. Hear our silent prayers...**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

Did you ever think of yourself as a paramedic for God? We are grateful when trained medical personnel save our loved ones. When do we show our gratitude to those who show us patience and understanding, who take time to listen, who correct us when we are taking the wrong road and who give us forgiveness when we mess up? (November newsletter) When we do we are experiencing forgiveness.

We are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Pass the Peace of Christ**

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

**Prayer for Illumination** Graham Kendrick, "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Let us pray. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me. Shine on all of us. Set our hearts on fire. Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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

**Gospel Lesson** Luke 4:1-13

"When God's Word is in our hearts, we stand face to face with God and begin to see one another with the eyes of Christ." (Mark Ralls)

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

**\*Sermon** "Singleheartedness"

"Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy:

'Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God.

Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.'" (Luke 4:8)

Scripture will give us a foundation on which to stand against temptation.

**\*Hymn** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" #286

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

We remember Zacchaeus whose encounter with Jesus transformed his heart for hurting people. Then Zacchaeus said to Jesus "Look, Lord. I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold. And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house," (Luke 19:8-9).

**Offertory**

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

# 606

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**God of Hosts, bless this offering that we have freely and joyfully given to this church and the people and places of the Church around us. Your generosity allows us to gather coins and dollars, time and talents, passion and peace to help proclaim Emmanuel! Our old and our young have reached into their pockets and their hearts to offer these gifts back to you. May our gifts be presented with love toward the people of the world, who are our siblings in Christ. Come, Holy Spirit, Amen.**

## **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

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

Give us this day our daily \_\_\_\_\_ What do you need from God this week?

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

## **Prayers of the People**

The Lord's Prayer Dialogue with God

**\*Hymn** "We Gather Together" #336

**\*Benediction** from Edward Abbey *Desert Solitaire*

May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. May your rivers flow without end, meandering through pastoral valleys tinkling with bells... where something stranger and more beautiful and more full of wonder than your deepest dreams waits for you – beyond that next turning of the canyon walls.

**\*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**



Vicent Van Gogh quotation from last Sunday's sermon.

In preparation for next Sunday's service read Luke 13:31-35. When have you experienced God like a mother hen? "How often I've longed to gather your children, gather your children like a hen, Her brood safe under her wings— but you refused and turned away!"

**"Grieving Change and Loss"** Our forty-day journey together with daily devotions emailed to each person at Westminster.

Day 5 – Today - "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting; for this is the end of everyone, and the living will lay it to heart."—Ecclesiastes 7:2 - The Emotional Buffer of Denial

During this Lenten journey together, besides pairing up with another person as suggested last week, you may want to consider keeping a journal of your thoughts and prayers as you read each morning's devotional.

Next Sunday, Pastor Jon will be teaching a Bible study from 9:45-10:15 in Room 104, upstairs and down the hall. Read your devotionals and make notes and make comments for Day 5-Day 11. Bring your Bible and your copy of "Grieving Loss and Change." After worship Pastor Jon will be training new liturgists from 11:45-Noon. See Linda Crumley if you would like to be included.

**March 11<sup>th</sup>** – See *Ya Tuesday* dinner group meets at 5:30 p.m. at Tres Portillo's 964 Galloway Road, Galloway, Ohio 43119

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** - Women of the church gather for informal lunch at the Bob Evans in Georgesville Square at 12:30 p.m. No reservation required, just come and have fun!

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** – Westminster Presbyterian lunch group meets at 11:30 at York Steak House

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** – Women's Candy Making at the Galloway church 5:00

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** – 5 PM – Meeting of 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Many, many thanks to Rene Miller for the donation of our Anniversary banner, and to her son for designing it.

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter breakfast provided by our Deacons

From our Presbytery newsletter: **West High School Says Thank-You to the Presbytery!**

Each year, the Presbytery sets up a Holiday Store at West High School in Columbus, so that students can use their hard-earned "bucks" for good behavior to buy gifts for friends and family. On February 22, West High held a remarkably elegant luncheon in their library to say "Thank You" to their major community partners including the Presbytery's own Cap City Helping Hands ministry for stocking the Holiday Store. Thank you to Jim Benney of Westminster Presbyterian Church for representing us so well at this event.

May 16-May 17 **Flea Fantasia**. Mark your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors. Clothes may be hung on hangars and other contributions placed on tables downstairs. Thank you for your generosity towards helping our neighbors!