

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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

Disciples – Everyone here!

Gap Pastor – Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle

Pianist – Olivia Mitchem

September 15, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost

As we prepare to worship - Lord, since you discipline those whom you love, open my ears and my mind and my heart to hear your words calling this church out of our apathy and contentment to the faithfulness with which we began so many years ago. Amen.

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Ringing the church bell calls us to worship

Welcome & Prayer Cards

Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist Abigail Clark

words by Adam L. Tice to the hymn "What Is the World Like"

What is the world like when God's will is done?

Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive;

Roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.

This is how God moves us each to believe.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts,

Filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.

Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,

This is a new world where God's will is done.

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

"At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God." (Acts 16:25) Then a miracle happened and they were freed from prison. Music produces miracles!

Call to Confession (Please be seated) from Eugene Peterson

We are embarrassingly forgetful of the God who saves us, and easily distracted from the God who is with us. And so we need priests to remind us of God, to confront us with God's Word. And we need a lot of them. Then we fulfill for one another the words of Exodus 19:6 "You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests." We are priests for one another!

Unison Prayer of Confession from Teri McDowell Ott, "Being the church – together"

We're begging you, Lord, to forgive us for inflicting pain on those we misunderstand. There is no pain like the pain of being misunderstood like when others have rejected our attempts to explain and be better understood. We are hurting because we exist in a culture that promotes competition and domination. Show us how to make our goal to become your Beloved Community. Hear our silent prayers...

...a time of silent prayer...

Declaration of Forgiveness

As water is poured in the baptismal font, we believe our role as Christians is to call evil by its right name because Jesus has given us eyes and hearts and minds to see how we are complicit with what is most wrong with the world. We have confessed that complicity, begging God to forgive us for the pain we have caused others, willingly and unwillingly and as part of a nation that often causes pain, suffering, and starvation on others in God's world.

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

***Joyful Response** "You Belong to Christ" # 492

***Pass the Peace of Christ**

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

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray. Lord, I've been listening to your Scriptures for many years. Let me hear them differently today. Transform me in a new way to follow you in my daily walk of faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Job 5:17-27

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

New Testament Lesson Revelation 3:15-22 (*The Message*)

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

Sermon "Letter to a Lukewarm Church"

"I know you inside and out and find little to my liking.
You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot!"
(Revelation 3:15)

Rev. Jonathan T. Carlisle, Gap Pastor

A Time of Silence

The Lord spoke in a still, small voice after the wind, the earthquake, and the fire (I Kings 19:12). If Elijah had been impatient he would not have heard the Lord's voice. Waiting and listening takes the focus off us and places it on God, who is the answer to all our needs. It is often in silence that the power of God is moving most mightily. So, allow the Holy Spirit to teach you how to wait in His presence. (*The Daily Encouraging Word*)

***Hymn** "Lord, Make Us More Holy" # 313

Invitation to Our Joyful and Generous Stewardship Together

(From Cecil Frances Alexander, "Jesus Calls Us," hymn #720)

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."
Write on a sticky note "Remember to be grateful today."

Offertory

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Lord, teach us to lead grateful lives, not needy lives. We are grateful we woke up again today. You shower us with immense blessings. Give us an attitude of gratitude each morning and an attitude of gratitude each evening, thankful for the day. You have satisfied the thirsty with water and satisfied the hungry with bread. Teach us again and again to share so others may be fed. Come, Holy Spirit. 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

***Hymn** "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" # 547

***Charge**

We all have a story, a tale to be told of the joys we've experienced and the hardships we've known. Sometimes we wear them on our sleeves for all to see but often they're hidden as deep as they can be. So, let us be kind for we never truly know the struggles and the battles that others undergo. May empathy and compassion be the guiding lights we share and may we always remember that each story deserves care-filled listening. For in our human journey we all need love and grace. Let us be kind to one another and create a better place.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**



Westminster Presbyterian Church ~ Founded April 8, 1956
one of eighty-three member congregations
of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley,
a gathering of 12,175 Presbyterians in 21 counties of Ohio

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

Announcements

We continue to pray for all of our members and friends in our "Contact List." You may ask them if they have a special request for prayer. From I Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Let your prayers be rejoicing! Begin today with Bob Moore and pray for a new person each day. Monday for Trish Moore; Tuesday for Carolyn Moore; Wednesday for Barbara Mogren; Thursday for Malcolm Mogren; Friday for Janine (Scior) Nibert; and Saturday for Beth Ormsby.

At last week's meeting of those interested in Adult Sunday School, interest was expressed with exploring the possibility of a weekday afternoon Bible study with members of Galloway Presbyterian. We'll explore that. Anyone else interested in a Bible study? See Lynne Kelly.

Today – Worship Committee meets after worship. Thank you to Pam Johnson and Melinda Rowe for co-chairing the committee.

Tuesday, Sept 17th 11:30am – Lunch Bunch meeting at Ding Ho Chinese Restaurant – 120 Philippi Rd

Friday & Saturday, September 20 and 21- Fall Flea Fantasia. We will be open from 9am to 3pm on Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday. If you would like to act as a host to the customers, just show up and spend as much time as fits into your schedule. We also will have a bake sale, so if you are able to contribute items, especially individually wrapped, please bring your baked goods to the kitchen on Friday or Saturday.