



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Second Sunday of Lent
25 February 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Refugee Ministry

Voluntary Through Adam's Fall We Sinned All
Gottfried August Homilius

***Ringing of the Bell** *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

People: **The journey begins in the wilderness.**

Leader: We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

People: **Like Jesus, we are not alone.**

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's word is on our lips.

Leader: Together we remember God's call to Abraham and Sarah
and God's promise to keep their going out and coming in.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Lenten Candle Service

As we extinguish the second Lenten candle, we remember God's promise to Abraham and Sarah as they ventured into an unknown land and Christ's journey to the cross. Let us pray.

Loving God, you know us by heart and call us by name. In this time of worship, help us to trust in you that we might name ourselves proudly as your people and as followers of Christ. Amen.

***Processional Hymn 81** To Abraham and Sarah *Llanfyllin*

***Prayer of Confession** Loving God, you call us to move with you into new ways of being your people. You call us to new adventures into the wilderness and encourage us to take the risks that life requires. Forgive us for our timidity, for all the ways we justify ourselves, and for preferring old habits to risk, opportunity and change. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon
and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response Create in Me a Clean Heart *John Carter*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school class and Grades 6-7 will go to Confirmation following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Genesis 12:1-4, 17:4 Pew Bible, OT page 10

Second Scripture Reading John 3:1-9 Pew Bible, NT page 93-94

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Light and Covenant Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: Text: Now the Lord said to Abram, Go from your country and your kindred and your father's home to the land that I will show you." Genesis 12:1 And I will I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, Genesis 17:4a

Anthem See Now the Lamb of God Gottfried August Homilius

See now, see the Lamb of God bearing the sin of the world.
Behold the Lamb of God bearing the sin of the world.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Selected verses from Romans 4

For the promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ...the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all Abraham's descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations").

Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said. No distrust made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what God had promised. Amen.

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**Prayers of the People
and The Lord's Prayer**

**The Presentation of our Gifts
and Prayer of Dedication**

At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.

Offertory Lamb of God Frank Martin

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Ordination and
Installation of Officers**

Pastor: There are varieties of gifts,
People: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
Pastor: There are different ways of serving God,
People: but it is the same Lord who is served.
Pastor: God works through each person in a unique way,
People: but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
Pastor: To each is given a gift by the Spirit,
People: to be used for the common good.
Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ,
People: and individually members of it.

**The Presentation
of Elected Church Officers**

Session: *John Cross, Rachael Hickman, Dr. Vena Long*

Constitutional Questions *The pastors shall ask the constitutional questions to the elders and deacons.*

***Questions to the Congregation**

Pastor: Do you, as members of the church, accept these individuals as Elders and Deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People: We do.

Pastor: Do you agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church?

People: We do.

***Laying on of Hands** *The candidates for ordination kneel. Ordained elders are invited to come forward for the laying on of hands.*

***Ordination Prayer**

***Declaration of
Ordination and Installation**

***Hymn 749** Come, Live in the Light

We Are Called

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response** Amen

William Smith

***Voluntary** Toccata in a-minor

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

Donna Mae Foster 03/21/1931 – 11/12/2023
Francis Ben Foster 07/03/1927 – 01/13/2024
United with Westminster 05/18/2003

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **The Chancel flowers** are given in celebration of Blythe and Peter Kieffer's eighth wedding anniversary. They were united in marriage on February 29, 1992.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** The Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Rachael Hickman and Jess Weitzel of the Refugee Ministry
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Lily Swanson
- **Greeter:** Sally Godbey
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Julie Pittman (Head Usher), Kyle Duffy, Chris Hickman, Jim Parker, Camille Massey, Coleman Moore, Joyce King, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God Blesses All of Us" (Jacob and Esau) *Caregivers: Mille McNutt, Maria Lafrenz*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. Lesson: "Dare to Follow Jesus" (Mark 8:31-38). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Juliana Eastvold*
 - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 –5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Dare to Follow Jesus" (Mark 8:31-38). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Kristianna Eastvold*
 - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lesson Sixteen: "Prophets' Warning." *Teachers: Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Confirmation Grade 8 (Parish Hall)** The confirmation class will join the Adult Education Forum for the series "God's gifts of Sexuality and Gender."
 - **Adult Education Forum presents God's gifts of Sexuality and Gender (Parish Hall)** The second of a two-part session will review faith-based sexuality curriculum and define the many facets of sexual and gender identity. Led by Dr. Blythe and Dr. Peter Kieffer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

LENTEN REFUGEE HOUSEWARMING - In anticipation of our refugee family arriving in April, we invite members to join the Mission and Community Service Committee in preparing their new home at 522 S. Glenwood. Household items are listed on SignUpGenius as well as at a table in the West Narthex following worship. Additionally, those with gently used furniture may send photos to Krista Steller and Jeanne VanGieson at kbsteller@gmail.com or jeannesvg@yahoo.com.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: GOD'S GIFTS OF SEXUALITY AND GENDER meets **today** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Join the Kieffers who will review faith-based sexuality curriculum today and provide a review of the PC(USA) beliefs. Blythe and Peter (who is a pediatrician) taught human sexuality courses at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church during her tenure as Associate Pastor.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY is available the **weeks of February 26, March 4, 11 and 18**. Join us in the renovation work of 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. Dates and times are available at SignUpGenius found on the church website home page.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP will meet **Tuesday, February 27, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** in the Ziegler Library for an extended meeting to discuss both Nine Black Robes: Inside the Supreme Court's Drive to the Right and Historic Consequences by Joan Biskupic and The Shack by William P. Young. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS meets **Sundays, March 3 and 10** at 9:00 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. New members will be recognized at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 17, following a Special Session meeting at 9:00 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: ROOTED IN FAITH meets **Sundays, March 3, 10, 17.** While most of us love trees, they are still easy to take for granted. This three-part course will explore the spiritual symbolism of trees in the Bible and Christian tradition, the roles of the native trees with which God blessed Illinois, and the ways in which trees offer solutions to social justice issues relating to public health and climate change. Leading this series is Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold.

PORTRAITS OF PEACE on Sunday, March 17. at 4:00 p.m. This program features both music and drama celebrating the lives of civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and the Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian. Dr. Sharon Willis of Atlanta, Georgia, a composer, playwright, and actress will be joined with organist, Linda Andrews, tenor, Alfonzo Cooper, Jr., and pianist, Gayle Cooper for *Portraits of Peace*.

LENTEN JOURNEY AT WESTMINSTER

LENTEN GIVING

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering collected during Lent provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment for the poor and oppressed. The **Lenten Coat Drive Box** is located in the West Narthex for our annual collection of new or gently used coats.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 24

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, Sunday school children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children's Choir will sing and the Westminster Choir will sing "Sing For Joy" of Handel and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

The Passion of Christ Art Display

March 24-31 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster's Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall during Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, March 28

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing "I Wonder Why," "See Now the Lamb of God," and "An Offering." This service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the "Adagio for Strings" of Samuel Barber and the seven words of Christ.

Easter Sunday, March 31

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," "This is the Day the Lord Hath Made," "Easter Rejoicing" and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.

WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, February 26

9:30 AM King's Daughters (3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, February 27

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
5:00 PM Refugee Welcoming Committee
(Conference Room)
6:00 PM Apostles Read (Library)

Wednesday, February 28

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 PM Reporter Folding (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group
(Conference Room)
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:00 PM Deliver meal to Helping Hands

Thursday, February 29

5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (Second Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 1

Saturday, March 2

10:00 AM Miss Illinois Scholarship (Parish Hall)
11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, March 3

Parish Nurse Ministries (Church Office)
9:00 AM New Members Class (Pastor's Study)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)
10:15 AM Confirmation for 6-7th Grade (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Confirmation for 8th Grade ((Parish Hall)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
5:00 PM Sr. High Youth Group (Parish Hall)

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WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Mary Ray
Director for Youth

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Millie McNutt, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Staff

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl**
Part-time Custodians