



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday of Lent
03 March 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Prélude

César Franck

***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 faithfulness in providing
words on how to live our lives as we travel together.

People:

Thanks be to God!

***Lenten Candle Service**

As we extinguish the third Lenten candle, we remember the gift of the ten words to Moses on Mount Sinai and Christ's journey to the cross. Let us pray:

Loving God, thank you for the gift of your word in the covenant to Moses which provides boundaries and honors relationships on our individual journeys. Thank you for the Word becoming flesh in Christ.

***Processional Hymn 213**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Rathbun

***Prayer of Confession** Holy God, we confess our struggle to fully grasp the depth of grace and mercy you have for us. Forgive our moments of doubt and hesitation when we falter in embodying your spirit and truth. Help us bridge the gap between knowing your will and living it out daily. Transform us each day to shine in your likeness. 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 John 2:13-22 Pew Bible, NT page 93

Second Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Pew Bible, NT page 166
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon From Revelation to Realization Rev. Christian K. Choi

Text: After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. John 2:22

Anthem If Ye Love Me Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter. That he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of Truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

John 14: 15-18

***Affirmation of Faith**

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's 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**

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

Offertory

Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow Franz Schubert
Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, where the blood of Christ was shed.
Perfect man on thee did suffer, perfect God on thee has bled.
Here the King of all the ages, throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying, crucified by sin for me.

***Offertory Response**

Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of mercy, with hearts open and spirits surrendered,
we seek to follow your heart. Grant us the courage to
embody your compassion, grace, and mercy in all we do.
May our lives reflect your love for a world in need and
may our every thought and action be a testament to your
glory. May the offerings we bring be used for your
kingdom, and as we dedicate ourselves afresh to your
service, equip us with your strength and wisdom. Amen.

***Hymn 341**

O God, Show Mercy to Us *Thaxted*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

Amen William Smith

***Voluntary**

Chaconne Louis Couperin

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Betty J. Dawkins 05/28/1930 – 02/25/2024
United with Westminster 04/15/1962

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Katie Carlson-Eastvold and Lyle VanDeventer from the Adult Education Committee
- **Acolytes:** Harper and Reese Huston
- **Greeters:** Julie and Jim McDonough and Jeanne Pittman
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Gregg Humphrey, Melanie Humphrey, Kathy Kenyon. Julie McDonough, John McNutt
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**
 - **New Members Class (Dr. Kieffer's Study)**
 - **Earth Care Team (Library)**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "I can say 'Sorry' to my Family (Joseph and His Brothers) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "The Ten Commandments" (Exodus 20:1-17). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Chelsea Ekstedt*
 - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "The Ten Commandments" (Exodus 20:1-17). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Adam Ekstedt*
 - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lessons Seventeen: "Daniel" of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Mary Ray, Joe Fierstos*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Confirmation Grade 8 (Conference Room)** meet for Lessons Eleven and Twelve: "The Counter-Reformation and Presbyterians in America" from Church History, *Led by Dr. Peter Kieffer and Mary Ray*
 - **Adult Education Forum presents Rooted in Faith (Parish Hall)** The first of a three-part session explores the spiritual symbolism of trees in the Bible and Christian tradition. *Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold*
 - **Refugee Ministry Steering Committee (Second Floor Classroom)**
- **5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall)** will meet to enjoy Bible study, games, and dinner. A meal prepared by Mary Ray will be served.

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.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY continues the weeks of March 4, 11 and 18. Join us in the renovation work of 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. We begin with removing wallpaper and painting. Dates and times are available at SignUpGenius found on the church home page.

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 9:30 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.

DMA PROGRAM WILL BE TWIN BEE APIARIES on **Friday March 22.** Potluck starts at 5:30 followed by the program at 6:15 p.m. Fred and Carolyn Gerberding will provide the program and will have locally sourced honey for sale. Call the church office for reservations.

NEW HARMONY SPRING RETREAT **Thursday - Saturday, May 2-4, 2024** Members and friends are invited to join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers on a journey to New Harmony, Indiana for a Spring Retreat Thursday-Saturday, May 2-4. The retreat will begin with dinner on Thursday evening in the Paul Tillich Dining Room of the Red Geranium Restaurant and concludes at 12 noon on Saturday. The cost of the two-day retreat is \$250 per person. This includes two nights of lodging and five meals. The Christian Education Endowment is subsidizing the retreat and scholarships are available. Reservations have been made for up to 40 participants. Applications are available in the West Narthex and on our website at www.wpcspi.org.

THE EASTER MUSIC FUND needs your generous consideration as it provides for the Millikin Brass Quartet on Easter Day as well as other musical offerings through the season. **THE EASTER DECORATIONS FUND** provides for the palms and lilies for Holy Week and Easter. A suggested donation is \$25. For both of these giving opportunities, a list of donors and those whom they are remembering are printed in the Easter bulletin. Make checks to WPC with the appropriate designations or pay online using the church website. The deadline for the bulletin wording is Monday, March 25.

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 REFUGEE HOUSEWARMING - In anticipation of our Spanish speaking refugee family of four that includes two children arriving in April, we invite members to join the Refugee Ministry 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.

LENTEN JOURNEY AT WESTMINSTER

Lenten Candle Service

Westminster's Sunday worship service begins with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent to commemorate Christ's journey toward the cross.

Daily Lenten Devotional

Meditations from The Desert of Compassion written by Rachel M. Srubas, Pastor of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be emailed each Sunday of Lent, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with follow up questions for reflections.

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, March 4

Tuesday, March 5

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 12:00 PM KDO – Willing Circle (Youth Room)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM Compass for Kids

Wednesday, March 6

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Conference Room)
- 5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:30 PM Mission and Community Service (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Great Decision in WACCI (3rd Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Ruth & Naomi Circle (off site)

Thursday, March 7

- 1:30 PM Memory Loss Graduate Group (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:15 PM Membership Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 6:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 8

Saturday, March 9

- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, March 10

Holy Communion

- 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 (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
- 4:00 PM Youth Group (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

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<http://www.wpcspi.org>

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