



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fifth Sunday of Lent
17 March 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Steadfast Neighbor Mission Outreach

Voluntary Aria Andrew Carter

***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 the new covenant God has
written on our hearts which provide light for the way,

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Lenten Candle Service** As we extinguish the fifth Lenten candle, we remember
your desire for us to write your covenants upon our hearts
and Christ's journey to the cross. Let us pray:
**Loving God, May we follow the way of our Savior and live
our lives in ways which honor the covenant written upon
our hearts. Thank you for lighting the way before us.
Amen.**

***Processional Hymn 703** Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me *St. Catherine*

***Prayer of Confession** Holy and loving God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart and have not loved our neighbors. We have fallen short in loving the people around us. Do not remember what separates us from you and one another. Forgive our iniquities that we may live as children of light. 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 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Pew Bible, OT page 735

Second Scripture Reading John 12:20-26 Pew Bible, NT page 106
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Light and Heart Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
*Text: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
Jeremiah 31:33b*

Anthem The Lord Will Not Suffer Thy Foot to be Moved
Johann Sebastian Bach
The Lord will not suffer thy foot to be moved, and he that keepeth Israel will not slumber nor sleep. Psalm 121

Recognition of New Members

*Prayer of Welcome

We, as a church of Jesus Christ, lovingly receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us, in the blessings of the gospel, and we promise to treat you with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to offer our prayers on your behalf.

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ God's only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn

We All Are One in Mission *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

We are all one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

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

Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs

Mark Hayes

Surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows.

He was wounded for our transgressions.

He was bruised for our iniquity.

The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him.

And by His wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray.

Each of us has turned to his own way.

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy and loving God, it is you from whom all gifts flow,
and it is by your grace that we are made whole. May the
gifts which we humbly offer you be made complete
through Christ. Replace our stony hearts with hearts that
are kind and tender. Amen.

*Hymn 692

Spirit, Open My Heart

Wild Mountain Thyme

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Response

Forth in Thy Name

Orlando Gibbons

*Voluntary

Fantasia in c-minor

Seth Bingham

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Flowers in the Chancel** are given in loving memory of Alyona Sterling Beckner from her grandmother Catherine Brown, mother Anne Sterling Beckner and uncle Robert Jordan Sterling.
- **Flowers in the West Narthex** are given in honor of Nancy and Rich Canady's 65th wedding anniversary from their loving family.
- **Flowers in the West Narthex** are given in honor of Betty J. Dawkins by her family.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Dr. Todd Knox and Tim Kluge of Steadfast Neighbor Mission Team
- **Acolytes:** Juliet Boutelle and Juliana Eastvold
- **Greeters:** Susan and Brinton Wilkey
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Matthew Medley, 'cellist, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Sophia Choi, Deb Fritsch, Sabrina Holmes, Gregg Humphrey, Melanie Humphrey, John McNutt
- **Safety Team:** Rich Canady, Brad Steller
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Bob Leffler, Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:30 a.m. – Special Session Meeting (Library)** to receive new members.
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God Sends Us Helpers" (Deborah) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, 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. The story is "Included in the Covenant" (Jer. 31:31-34). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Julie Robbs*
 - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Included in the Covenant" (Jer. 31:31-34). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Marc DeJong*
 - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lesson Eighteen: "Rebuilding." *Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Adult Education Forum presents Rooted in Faith (Parish Hall)** The last of a three-part series explores the spiritual symbolism of trees. *Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold*
 - **2024 Youth Mission Team Meeting (Second Floor Classroom)** will present details about this summer's mission (June 15-22) to St. Charles Presbyterian Church Camp Rhino in New Orleans, LA as well as information about fundraisers, paperwork, and payments.
 - **Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)** Stock up on Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts, to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers.

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.

NEW MEMBERS were received this morning at a Special Session meeting. We welcome:

***Benjamin D. Arnold** by Certificate of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL. Ben's sponsor is Lyle VanDeventer.*

***Kathleen M. Bacon** by Certificate of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL. Her sponsors are Vonnie Hinesley and Roy Wehrle.*

***Cathy Greek-Yokley** by Certificate of Transfer from Grace Lutheran Church in Springfield, IL. Her sponsor is Becky Huston.*

***Peter Q. Hancock** by Reaffirmation of Faith. Peter's sponsor is Brinton Wilkey.*

***Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross** by Certificate of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL. Her sponsor is Randy Wiseman.*

***Patricia L. McClelland** by Reaffirmation of Faith. Trisha grew up in the United Church of Christ in Sheffield, IL. Her sponsor is Pat McNutt.*

***Doris A. Melvin** by Reaffirmation of Faith. Doris grew up at the Calvary Baptist Church in Taylorville, IL. Her sponsor is Mal Hildebrand.*

***Nancy J. Reed** by Reaffirmation of Faith. Nancy grew up at Third Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL. Her sponsor is Pat McNutt.*

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, Dale Rogers for this powerful program.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY continues this week. Join us in the renovation work of 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. We continue to remove wallpaper and paint. Dates and times are available at SignUpGenius found on the church home page.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Ziegler Library. Betsy Ruklick will host and lead Lesson 6 "A Person with a Physical Disability" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study.

LANDSCAPE GUILD SPRING CLEAN UP is Thursday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m. Rain day will be Friday, March 22. Those interested in joining the guild members are welcome.

DMA meets this **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 **Twin Bee Apiaries** and will have locally sourced honey for sale. Call the church office for reservations.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM presents Journey through the Psalms Sundays, March 24, April 7 and 14 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Join Lyle VanDeventer in an in-depth look at the book of Psalms — the prayer-book of the synagogue and the church.

LENTEN REFUGEE HOUSEWARMING – We are thankful that Westminster members have filled 522 S. Glenwood with furniture and household goods in anticipation of our refugee family's arrival. The date has been moved to the last week of March during Holy Week. We will need to purchase some items upon the family's arrival and your financial donations continue to be gratefully accepted. Members may note in the memo line of their check "Refugee Ministry."

LENTEN GIVING - The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering 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. As of Friday, March 15 we have collected 104 coats.

THE EASTER MUSIC AND DECORATIONS FUNDS welcome donations of \$25 each. For both 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.

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. Applications are available in the West Narthex and on our website at www.wpcspi.org.

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 18

5:30 PM APNC Zoom Interviews (Pastor's Study)

Tuesday, March 19

6:00 AM Election Day Voting (Parish Hall)
9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 PM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
4:45 PM I.T. Committee (Conference Room)
5:30 PM Family Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, March 20

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00 PM Bridges (Kitchen)
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group
(Conference Room)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)

Thursday, March 21

1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:00 PM Cooperative Preschool Open House
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 22

5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)
6:25 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

Saturday, March 23

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

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

9:45 AM Children and Youth Gather in Parish Hall
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

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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