



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
2 August 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

**Voluntary** Concerto in b-minor Johann Gottfried Walther

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

**\*Call to Worship** Rev. Christian K. Choi

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness, all creatures.  
*Come into God's presence with singing. Return to the Lord, your God.*  
For the Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
*God's faithfulness endures to all generations,  
welcoming us home with a forgiving embrace.*  
Let us worship God.

**\*Hymn 336** We Gather Together *Kremser*

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.  
Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!  
We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

**\*Invitation to Confession** Rev. Trajan I. McGill

**\*Prayer of Confession** God of mercy, your hopes for us are greater than our own, yet our failures do not surprise you. Forgive us, we pray, even for the sin we cannot see or find too painful to confess. God of love, accept us as we are, so that we may accept ourselves. Teach us to affirm what is good in our lives, and to put behind us what is unworthy, that by your grace we may live in confidence and joy, in the manner of Jesus our Christ. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

**\*Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

**Children's Sermon** Presentation of Third Grade Bibles  
*Taryn Marie Barnett, Katherine Jane Bryans and Charles Davis Graham*  
Recognition of Fifth Graders Completing Bridges  
*Sam Batterman, Maria DeJong, Abigail Eldridge, James Maeda, Macklin Metzger*

**First Scripture Reading** Genesis 32:22-33:11

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor with my lord." But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." Jacob said, "No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favor. Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want." So he urged him, and he took it.

**Music** The Dutchman Michael Peter Smith

The Dutchman's not the kind of man to keep his thumb jammed in the dam  
That holds his dreams in but that's a secret only Margaret knows  
When Amsterdam is golden in the morning Margaret brings him breakfast  
She believes him he thinks the tulips bloom beneath the snow  
He's mad as he can be but Margaret only sees that sometimes  
Sometimes she sees her unborn children in his eyes

*Chorus:* Let us go to the banks of the ocean where the walls rise above the Zuider Zee  
Long ago I used to be a young man and dear Margaret remembers that for me

The Dutchman still wears wooden shoes his cap and coat are patched with love  
That Margaret sewed in sometimes he thinks he's still in Rotterdam  
He watches tugboats down canals  
And calls out to them when he thinks he knows the captain  
'Til Margaret comes to take him home again  
Through unforgiving streets that trip him though she holds his arm  
Sometimes he thinks that he's alone and calls her name

The windmills whirl the winter in she winds his muffler tighter  
They sit in the kitchen some tea with whiskey keeps away the dew  
He sees her for a moment calls her name she makes the bed up humming some old  
love song she learned it when the tune was very new  
He hums a line or two. They hum together in the night  
The Dutchman falls asleep and Margaret blows the candle out

## Second Scripture Reading Luke 15:1-3,11-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: ...

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

**Sermon** The Face of God

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: "...for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God – since you have received me with such favor."*  
*Genesis 33:10*

**Music** If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

Johann Gottfried Walther

## The Church at Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Introduction to the Offering

**\*Offertory Response** Doxology

**\*Prayer of Dedication** Loving and Generous God, you provide for us and even bless us in more ways than we can number. We give these tithes and offerings to tell of your wondrous and steadfast love so that those who do not yet know you may also come to your love. Amen.

**\*Hymn 435** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy *In Babilone*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

## \*Charge and Benediction

**\*Voluntary** Allegro Johann Gottfried Walther

*(Photo highlights of 2020 Online VBS "Knights of North Castle" will be shown during the Voluntary.)*

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand

## Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff  
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life  
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry  
Karen Sherrick, Director for Children's Ministry  
Dale T. Rogers, Organist     Lyle VanDeventer, Hymn Singer  
Bob Fox, Videographer     Elsie Fox, Director  
Sara Eldridge, Gregg Humphrey, and Mike Sundquist, Ushers  
Julie James, Safety Team