



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reformation and Stewardship Dedication Sunday
25 October 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Andante Moderato

Dimitri Shostakowitsch

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

*In you, we come home – to rest, to wrestle, to love,
to be loved. We dwell in you.*

Before the mountains were born, before you delivered the whole world,
from everlasting past to everlasting future, you are God.

*In you, we are home –we dream, we flourish, we fade,
we rejoice. We dwell in you.*

Come, let us worship the God who is our home. Psalm 90:1-6

***Hymn**

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

Toulon

I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the life, by which alone we live,
reigning omnipotent in every place:
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,
and give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
that we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.

***Invitation to Confession**

Prayer of Confession

Loving God in whom we live and move and have our being, forgive us for the times when we are afraid. Sometimes we are afraid of change. It makes us feel uncomfortable and wary and we resent those who suggest its benefit. Sometimes, we hold grudges from old arguments, or differences of opinion. Sometimes, we hold on to our grieving. We are afraid that everything we have valued will unravel. 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

First Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

¹ Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³ the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴ The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, "I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." ⁵ Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. ⁶ He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. ⁹ Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹ He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹² and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. Amen.

Musical Interlude

Molto Expressivo

Ennio Morricone

Second Scripture Reading

I Thessalonians 2:1-8

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be

entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.

⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. Amen.

Sermon Embraced

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. 1 Thess. 2:8

Solo Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now let the weak say, "We are strong;"
Let the poor say "We are rich because of that the Lord has done for us."
Give thanks. Give thanks.

The Church at Prayer

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

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

***Litany of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

2021 pledges are presented in the Baptismal Font brass bowl as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community.

Holy and Loving God, who for our sakes became poor
In Christ Jesus that we might become rich.

On this Stewardship Dedication we present our
2021 pledges with reverence, joy and gratitude.

Thank you for the privilege of belonging to this
community of faith,

Thank you for the gift of children and our baptismal vows which provide a good foundation for their future.

Thank you for the richness of our journey together and for this time to share in the work of Westminster's historic church, a beacon within our community.

Help us to remember that when we grow in stewardship as individuals and a faith community, we make a greater difference in the kingdom of God

Give us generous hearts as we gather in the stillness of your presence to remember who we are and to celebrate the gifts of God for the people of God. Amen.

***Hymn** God of the Sparrow

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?
God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?
God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?
God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** A Mighty Fortress is Our God

William Faulkes

(*) The congregation is invited to stand

Flowers in the chancel are given in memory of Dr. Glen Pittman from his loving family.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Dr. Roland D. Cull 10/17/20
United with Westminster

IN MEMORIAM

Donna Solomon 10/18/20
United with Westminster 04/03/1977

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Kamen Petkov, Violinist Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers