



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Recognition of New Members
27 March 2022 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

An Interlude

Harold Darke

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Leader: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness, all creatures.

People: **Come into God's presence with singing.
Return to the Lord, your God.**

Leader: For the Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: **God's faithfulness endures to all generations,
Welcoming us home with a forgiving embrace.**

Lenten Candle Service

As we extinguish the fourth Lenten candle and continue our walk toward Holy Week, the ordinary object of shoes reminds us of holy ground, celebrations, and sojourns. Let us pray:

God of grace, you run out to meet us in love when we anticipate having to beg for your mercy. You see our uniqueness and know our value as your children. As we bask in your embrace, marvel at our new clothing, and celebrate at the banquet given in our honor, our excitement grows. Knowing the joy of such grace, we look to live in ways that cause your mercy and goodness to explode and overflow into every corner of our homes, community, and world. Amen.

***Hymn 15** All Creatures of Our God and King *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*
Stanzas 1, 2, 4, 6

***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 the prodigal, 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 Lord. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

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

***Declaration of Pardon**
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.**
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

Children's Sermon *Students in grades Pre-K – 5 will go to Sunday school class during the Congregational Response.*

Congregational Response Spirit of the Living God *Living God*
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

First Scripture Reading Genesis 33:1-11 *Pew Bible, OT page 30*

Second Scripture Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 *Pew Bible, NT page 78*
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon A Parent's Dilemma Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Text: Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons.' ...the father said ...put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet... and let us eat and celebrate. Luke 15:11, 22, 23

Anthem Wondrous Love Wes Ramsey and Tim Sharp
The text for the anthem is 215 in the hymnal

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 his 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
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 What Wondrous Love is This? Louie White

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

***Prayer of Dedication** God of holy ground, celebrations, and sojourns, thank you
for welcoming us home. Thank you for loving each of us
and all of us. Knowing the joy of such grace, we offer the
gifts of our labor and our lives. May these be used in ways
that cause your mercy and goodness to explode and
overflow into every corner of our homes, community, and
world. through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 22** God of the Sparrow *Roeder*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Baroques: Overture Seth Bingham

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Chancel Flowers** are in honor of the people of Ukraine whom we hold in our prayers.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Priscilla and Tim Kluge
- **Greeters:** Millie, John, Luke and Jennifer McNutt and Pat McNutt
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head), Mervice Alah Abung, Rich Canady, Terry Haynor, Julie McDonough, Jim Parker, Mike Sundquist, and Brinton Wilkey
- **Safety Team:** Mary Ray and Brad Steller
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Lyle VanDeventer, Bass, Herb Buffington, piano, Dale Rogers, organ

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. Session Meets New Members (Library)**
- **9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Meeting (Pastor's Study)**
- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, 2 & 3 year olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week: “David and Goliath” *Caregivers: Caroline Haynor, Dee Dee Duffy, and Linda Caupert*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school (**Third Floor Chapel**) following the Congregational Response. This week’s lesson: “The Prodigal Son” *Teachers: Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon Adult Ed Forum (2nd Floor Classroom)** presents GIANTS. The last in this three-session course will behold the lives of nineteenth century giants Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Dr. Peter Kieffer will lead the class.
- **11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class (Conference Room)** Lesson: Echo Session 12: Ruth *Teachers: Rev. Choi and Jim Kincaid*
- **5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group** discusses fundraising projects.

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are can be found on our website at www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, speak to Dr. Kieffer or Rev. Choi.

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

Mark A. Luttrell joins by Certificate of Transfer from First Methodist Church of Springfield. Mark is a reading specialist at Auburn Elementary School and has a B.A. from Illinois State University and a M.A. in Reading from Western Illinois University. His hobbies include trivia, traveling, and walking the trails of Lincoln Memorial Garden. In June of 2021 Mark married *Elisabeth Kluge who will serve as his sponsor.*

Mary and Coleman Moore join by Certificate of Transfer from Sunshine Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI. Mary and Coleman have been married 42 years. They have three grown children. Mary worked as an RN in labor and delivery for 38 years before retiring. She enjoys painting, crochet, gardening, and spending time with their five grandchildren.

The Rev. Coleman Moore is a retired pastor, ordained in the Christian Reformed Church. He received his M.Div. from Calvin Theological Seminary. Prior to attending seminary, Coleman made his Profession of Faith in the Episcopal Church, graduated from Kenyon College, and worked in Commercial Real Estate. After serving congregations, Coleman served as a business missionary, teaching homeless men coming out of prison and addiction programs to build custom furniture. Mary and Coleman moved to Springfield to be near their grandchild. *Their sponsors are Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer.*

Vonnie Hinesley and Roy Wehrle join by Certificate of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Springfield. Vonnie and Roy were married in February of 2017. Vonnie has a B.S. in biology and accounting from Sangamon State University (Now UIS) and served as a Special Agent in the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Internal Revenue Service. As a Range Officer, Vonnie received several awards for her investigation. She is past president of the Chatham Jaycees and first female member. She enjoys reading, hiking, tent camping, traveling, baseball, music, and playing the piano.

Dr. Roy Wehrle has a B.A. from Washington University and a doctorate in Economics from Yale University. He served as an Artillery Officer in the US Army, Economic Counselor to the US Ambassadors in Laos & Vietnam and Deputy and Associate Director for AID in both countries. He was a Senior Economist in President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors, Social Policy Institute, Harvard University. Additionally, he served as CEO of HEMA, Inc. working to contain healthcare costs and on the faculty of Sangamon State, the University of Illinois and Millikin. He retired as Emeritus Professor of Economics at UIS. *Their sponsors are Carolyn and Brad Swanson.*

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING denominational offering is received through Lent and provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment to the poor and oppressed. Gifts designated **UKRAINE RELIEF** will be forwarded to the PC(USA) specific disaster relief fund.



A SYMPOSIUM ON UKRAINE will be presented **Thursdays, March 31 and April 7, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.** in the Third Floor Classroom. Led by Dr. Roy Wehrle (Ph.D. in Economics from Yale) and Dr. Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold (Ph.D. in Political Science from Princeton), the symposium will address the context, current events, and global ramifications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

LENTEN COURSE: Mindfulness, Meditation, & Resiliency will resume **March 28**, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Led by Dr. Virginia Dolan. The final session will be held April 4.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION & FELLOWSHIP gathers **Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters are invited to a potluck salad luncheon **on Tuesday, April 5. Reservations are due by April 1.** Please contact Mary Jo Jenkins for more information.



TRIVIA NIGHT returns **Sunday, April 3! at 5:00 p.m.** Sign-up yourself or your team online at our website or at <https://bit.ly/3lxTdYv>. *Childcare is available in the nursery. Tickets are \$15.00* and can be purchased on our website, from a youth or in the West Narthex today. **Dinner is \$5.00** and available for purchase at 5:00 p.m.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTOS taken **April 28-30, May 17-18, and May 24-25, 2022-** Sign-ups have begun online at (www.ucdir.com) for the dates listed above. Stop by the table in the West Narthex following worship today and a member of staff or a deacon will assist you in the sign-up process.





PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10
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 *Arise, My Soul* by Dan Forrest.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY
April 10-17 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, APRIL 14
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing *Drop, Drop Slow Tears* by Owens and *At the Foot of the Cross* by Dengler. 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, APRIL 17
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* and *Christ the Lord is Risen Again* by Stopford 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.

THE EASTER MUSIC FUND and DECORATION FUND donations provide for special music and lilies. For both of these giving opportunities, a list of donors and those whom they are remembering are printed in the Easter bulletin. Donations with wording requested by Palm Sunday, April 10.

LENTEN COAT DRIVE – We are collecting new or lightly used coats in the West Narthex which will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and then be donated to Contact Ministries. Thank you for the 39 coats donated already.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, March 28

- 9:30 AM Kings Daughters Meeting (3rd Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Lenten Mindfulness Course (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:30 PM Play Rehearsal (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, March 29

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:45 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #6052 (Parish Hall)
6:30 PM Play Rehearsal (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (off site)

Wednesday, March 30

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
12:30 pm Reporter
4:00 PM Bridges (Youth Room)
4:45 PM Choristers (Music Room)
6:30 PM Play Rehearsal (Parish Hall)

Thursday, March 31

- 5:00 PM APNC
6:00 PM Ukraine Symposium (3rd Floor Classroom)
7:30 PM Westminster Choir

Friday, April 1

- 11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)
12:00 PM PW Luncheon (Parish Hall)

Saturday, April 2

- 11:00 AM Church Mice

Sunday, April 3

- 9:45 AM Parish Nurse Ministries (Church Office)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School (Pre-K- Grade 5)
11:15 AM Confirmation (3rd Floor Classroom)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum
1:00 PM IL Symphony Auditions (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM Trivia Night Fundraiser for Youth Mission Trip

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

Deb Watts Elliott
*Saturday Worship Pianist and
Music Coordinator*

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Kacey Belitsos
Cooperative Preschool Teachers

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,
Eddie Hubbard, Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians