



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday after Epiphany
21 January 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Lord, Jesus Christ, be Present

Johann Sebastian Bach

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*** Call to Worship**

Psalm 62:5-12

Leader:

From God comes our salvation and hope

People:

for God alone we wait in silence

Leader:

God alone is our rock and our salvation.

People:

**God is our fortress and a refuge for us;
we shall not be shaken.**

Leader:

Come, let us pour out our heart before our God and King
in reverence and truth.

***Hymn 15**

All Creatures of Our God and King

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

(Stanzas 1, 2, 4, 6)

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we confess that we have often resisted your call to repentance and faith. We have fled from your plea for justice and mercy and ignored your voice in our hearts. Too often, we have criticized others when we, too, have been slow to follow you and quick to return to our old ways. God of mercy, forgive us for our stubbornness. Help us to hear your Word and respond with joy. Help us to turn from our ways and live in your grace. 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

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end, Amen, Amen.

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

**I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Children (preschool – Grade 5) go to Sunday School following the
Congregational Response.*

First Scripture Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Pew Bible, OT pages 860-861

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:14-20

Pew Bible, NT pages 35

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Bitter-Sweet

Rev. Christian K. Choi

*Text: "Immediately [Jesus] called them, and [James and John] left
their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed
him."
Mark 1:20*

Anthem

Even Here

Mark Miller

At the land's dark roots, in the farthest deep
where the daylight dims, where no one can reach,
can the hand of God, can the voice of love
find me even here, find me even here?

I have turned away, I have set my fate,
I have run too far, I repent too late.
O, to climb again where the eagle flies,
where its nest is set in the sunlit skies!
O forgive me, Lord, may I see your face,
may I die in peace with a song of praise,
may the hand of God, can the voice of love
find me even here, find me even here?

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Declaration of Faith

**In forming his people and sending them into the world
Jesus called individuals to be disciples.**

**They were to share the joy of his companionship,
to understand and obey his teachings,
and to follow him in life and death.**

**We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship.
Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ
is God's undeserved gift to each of us.**

**It is also God's demand upon every one of us,
never perfectly fulfilled by any of us.**

**Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters,
we strive to become more faithful and effective
in our daily practice of the Christian life.**

The Church at Prayer

Choir:

Surely the presence of the Lord 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 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

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

J. S. Bach

***Offertory Response**

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings to you. As you called Jonah, the people of Nineveh, and the disciples to follow your ways, so call us to live as your faithful servants. May our lives and our gifts reflect your love and your glory in the world. Amen.

*** Hymn 22**

God of the Sparrow

Roade

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Response

Forth in Thy Name

Orlando Gibbons

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go
My daily labor to pursue;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,
In all I think or speak or do.

*** Voluntary**

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

J. S. Bach

(*) The congregation is invited to stand

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
- **Acolytes:** Harper and Reese Huston
- **Worship Leader:** Sam Simonson
- **Greeters:** Joyce Matthews and Mary Maddox
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Jim Parker (Head Usher), Sophia Choi, Erin Ekstedt, Kathy Kenyon, Bill Schlosser, Susan Shaw, Bob Stuart, Jess Weitzel
- **Safety Team:** Peter Van Gieson
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Ministry Partners Meeting (Parish Hall)** to provide orientation to new and returning Sunday School teachers in expanded Sunday School classes and for ministry partners to sign-up on a schedule of Sundays. Led by Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God Took Care of Noah and the Animals" *Caregivers: Millie McNutt, Maria Lafrenz, Priscilla Kluge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 5 (Third Floor Chapel)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Another Call" (Mark 1:14-20). *Teachers: Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt*
 - **Grades 6-7 Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)** meet following the Children's Sermon for Lessons Eleven and Twelve: "Judges and Ruth" of the Echo Curriculum. *Teachers: Cara Barnett and Meridith Bryans*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Confirmation Grade 8 (Conference Room)** meet for Lesson Nine: "John Calvin Reforms" from Church History, *Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz and Mary Ray*
 - **Adult Education Forum presents The Regulation of Guns in USA (Parish Hall)** This forum provides an overview of the regulatory oversight of guns and its societal and political implications. Led by Kate and Michael Morthland
 - **Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)**
- **5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Cap Sorting Party (Parish Hall)** Youth and the Earth Care Team co-host this event. A meal prepared by Nichole Magalis will be served.

WI-FI Hearing Assistance System is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards, and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, hearing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

The Library Committee has prepared a cart of books for checkout from both of our libraries in the West Narthex containing philosophy, psychology, and a wide variety of Christmas books. Please plan to stop and peruse the books and resources.

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. The next New Member Class will meet Sundays, March 3 and 10 with new members received Sunday, March 17. If you are interested, speak to a pastor.

YOUTH CO-HOST CAP SORTING PARTY today, 5:00–7:00 p.m. Senior High Youth will collaborate with the Earth Care Team and host a Cap Sorting Party. Will Hovey will lead the effort to recycle 500 lbs. of bottle caps left over from his Eagle Scout Project. Upon receipt of the caps, Green Tree Plastics will provide a bench made from recycled materials through the ABC Promise Partnership Program. All are encouraged to join us in the fun of sorting followed by a delicious meal prepared by Nichole Magalis.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM presents The Regulation of Guns in USA today, February 4, 11 This adult education forum will provide an overview of the regulatory oversight of guns and its societal and political implications. The class will also conclude with a summary of the PC(USA) position on gun control measures. The forum will be led by Kate and Michael Morthland.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP meets **Tuesday, January 23** from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Nine Black Robes: Inside the Supreme Court's Drive to the Right and Historic Consequences by Joan Biskupic. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

ARMENIAN DANCERS PROGRAM on Friday, January 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. ARMFOLK, a group of talented young artists and musicians (ages 12-21) from Yerevan, Armenia will perform their repertoire of exuberant Armenian dances, and instrumentals, draped in exquisite Armenian costumes for an hourlong performance. The date is different than was originally announced. With this international initiative for peace and harmony through encounters of cultures, they are building up young Armenians and spreading the word of their culture throughout the world. This program is free and open to the public; however, a freewill donation will be received. Beth Allen and Sandy Bellatti, on behalf of Rotary, have organized the event and you may contact them if you have questions. Please join us for this memorable performance open to the Springfield community.

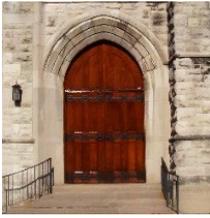
EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER Sunday, January 28 All youth attending the 2024 Mission Trip are expected to work the sixth annual Egg-tastic breakfast fundraiser on. **Plan to arrive by 8:15 a.m. and work through the morning!** The Mission participants will assist in serving a delicious Egg-tastic Breakfast prepared by Pat Hymans before worship at 10:00 a.m. Special thank you to Mary Jo and David Jenkins for their donation to offset the cost of the sausage for this year's Egg-tastic breakfast.



THE SAFETY TEAM will meet **Sunday, January 28 at 9:15 a.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The Safety Team was introduced in May of 2018 under the leadership of retired FBI agent, John Stafford. We are grateful for the team which serves faithfully and hope to add new members in 2024. Those who are interested are invited to contact John Stafford (217 299-5627) and attend the meeting.

ALL WOMEN'S NEW BEGINNING BRUNCH will be hosted by the PW on **Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 a.m. - noon** in Parish Hall. Brownie Anderson and Carole Kennerly will present a program called "Meeting C.S. and Joy Lewis." RSVP today following worship in the West Narthex.





MISSION SUNDAY - On **Sunday, February 4**, mission will be highlighted during worship. This is the eighth Mission Sunday which began in 2016. Rev. Christian Choi, Associate Pastor for Parish Life, will preach. A booklet including a comprehensive list of the 2023 mission supported by Westminster and the members of the committees who serve will be distributed. The total Mission Giving for 2023 is **\$276,263**. This giving is divided among the Operating Fund, Special Offerings, Presbyterian Women, and the Support and Endowment Mission Funds and does not include the addition Organizations,

Grants, and In-kind gifts of **\$107,395** enlisted by Westminster as the sponsoring congregation for the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets **Wednesday, February 7** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Meg Kontio (3508 Briana Drive, 62711). Meg will lead the devotional by John Wesley entitled, "Loving one Another" (pp. 258-263) from the book, Devotional Classics. RSVP directly to Meg.

THE CAPITAL BIG BAND featuring music of the Big Band Era and more recent tunes will present a lively program in Westminster's Parish Hall on **Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

HUNGER AND HOMELESS MINISTRIES - Ten members and the pastoral staff attended the new Helping Hands Ribbon Cutting Ceremony this week at 2200 Shale Avenue and received a tour of the impressive, comprehensive facilities to serve the most vulnerable of our community. **Beginning in 2024**, Westminster will prepare one meal on the fourth Wednesday of each month for Helping Hands at their new location. We are exploring other opportunities to serve as their needs become more salient once they have settled in.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

ANNUAL MEETING

8:30 – 9:45 A.M. EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Members are invited to an egg-tastic breakfast that will be served by youth attending the 2024 Youth Mission Trip. Come support the Mission and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the annual meeting following worship!

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORTS from the Session and Deacon Committee chairs have been received and will be included in the 2023 Annual Report.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, January 22

9:30 AM King's Daughters Board Meeting
(3rd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, January 23

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
4:00 PM Congregational Care (Conference Room)
4:30 PM Endowment Committee (Pastor's Study))
6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Pastor's Study)

Wednesday, January 24

10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group
(Conference Room)
4:00 PM Property Meeting (2nd Floor
Classroom)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:00 PM Helping Hands Meal Delivery (Off site)
5:15 PM Membership Meeting (Pastor's Study)
6:00 PM Adult Ed (Pastor's Study)

Thursday, January 25

5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study
(Second Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Congregational Fellowship (Conference
Room)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, January 26

5:30 PM Rotary Armenian Dance Group
(Sanctuary)

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28

8:30 AM Egg-tastic Breakfast (Parish Hall)
9:15 AM Safety Team Meeting (2nd Floor
Classroom)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:00 AM Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

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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