



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY  
24 March 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Fanfare

C. S. Lang

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader:

Awake to the day of triumph for our Savior!

People:

**Give thanks for this day that leads to the cross!**

Leader:

Come with your branches, hosannas, and songs!

People:

**Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!**

Leader:

Blessed is Jesus Christ who did not turn backward.

All:

**Hosanna! All glory, laud, and honor to the One who comes in God's name!**

**\*Processional Hymn 196**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

*Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*

**\*Lenten Candle Service**

We begin Holy Week with our children processing and waving palm leaves to commemorate the triumphant entry of Christ. As we extinguish the sixth Lenten candle, we remember Christ's confident humility and courage on his journey to the cross.

**Let us pray: Holy and loving God, give each of us the courage to journey with confidence and the grace to be generous with one another along the way of light. May we follow the path of our Savior and may our lives shout with glory, laud, and honor to our Redeemer. Amen.**

**Anthems** Palms of Praise Westminster Children's Choir  
Hosanna in the Highest

**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 following the Congregational Response. Grades 6-7 remain in worship.*

**First Scripture Reading** Isaiah 50:4-9a Pew Bible, OT page 681

**Second Scripture Reading** Mark 11:1-11 Pew Bible, NT page 47  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** The Way of Light Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Text: Morning by morning God wakens—wakens my earto listen as those who are taught. Isaiah 50:4b*

**Anthem** Sing for Joy George Frederick Handel  
Sing to God! Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into God's house singing songs of joy.  
The Lord alone is God! Let praises fill the house of God,  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing! Psalm 100

**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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Lowel Mason  
Gilbert Martin, arr.

The text for the anthem is 223 in the Glory to God hymnal.

### \*Offertory Response

Doxology

Hymnal, 606

### \*One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication

Pastor: O God, you have called us through One Great Hour of  
Sharing to go into all the world to proclaim the good news.

People: **Send us forth, O God, with your mercy and kindness.**

Pastor: May the branch extended in these gifts lead to great feasting  
for those who have no banquets set before them.

People: **Send us forth, O God, with your truth and steadfast love.**

Pastor: May the branch extended in these gifts build shelters and  
places of prayer for those who are homeless.

People: **Send us forth, O God, with your integrity.**

Pastor: May the branch extended in these gifts proclaim your desire  
that all your creation live in peace.

People: **Give us grateful hearts, O God.**

### \*Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Truro*

### \*Charge and Benediction

**\*Closing 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**

Crown Imperial

William Walton

(\* ) The congregation is invited to stand.

## HOLY WEEK

### The Passion of Christ Art Display March 24-31 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ is 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.*

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Dave and Valerie Leonatti – Dave chairs the Property Committee.
- **Greeters:** Sarah and Bob Zerfas
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte and William Affrunti
- **Fish Basket Carriers:** Aerwyna and Kristianna Eastvold
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Gregg Humphrey, Melanie Humphrey, Julie McDonough, John McNutt, Jim Parker
- **Music:** Westminster Children's Choir, Westminster Choir, Dale T. Rogers, organist
- **Safety Team:** Jim Dolan
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "We Can Do Good Things Together (Deborah)" *Caregivers: Maria Lafrenz, Sara Eldridge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
  - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "A Difficult Week" (Mark 11:1-11, 15:1-39). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz and Sophia Choi*
  - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Classroom)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "A Difficult Week" (Mark 11:1-11, 15:1-39). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz and Eric O'Reilly*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
  - **Adult Education Forum presents *Journey Through the Psalms* (Parish Hall)** This is the first session of a three-week series on the prayer-book of the synagogue and the church. We are invited to approach God with the same honesty and intensity as the ancient psalmists. The video presenter is Dr. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Wesley Theological Seminary. Join Lyle VanDeventer in an in-depth look at the book of Psalms.

**THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE** has prepared a cart including books on Women's History as well as books on Lent and Easter from both our Adult and Children's libraries in the West Narthex which are available for checkout. Please plan to stop by to peruse the books and resources.

**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.

## 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](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew.

**PALM SUNDAY IS THE CULMINATION OF THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING!** Our children and youth lead us in the Palm Sunday Procession during 10:00 a.m. worship and present their fish boxes. These gifts support hunger programs and disaster assistance administered by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Envelopes are in the pew pockets. The center pews are lined with some of the 117 coats donated for Contact Ministries.

**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.

**ADULT EDUCATION FORUM** introduces a new three-week class titled *Journey through the Psalms* today, April 7 and 14 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. We are invited to approach God with the same honesty and intensity as the ancient psalmists. The video presenter is Dr. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Wesley Theological Seminary. Join Lyle VanDeventer in an in-depth look at the book of Psalms—the prayer-book of the synagogue and the church.

**REFUGEE FAMILY ARRIVES TUESDAY, MARCH 26** – *Members are invited to walk through the house following worship today to view the congregation's generosity.* We are thankful to Westminster members who have filled 522 S. Glenwood with furniture and household goods in anticipation of our refugee family's arrival. We will 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."

**APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP** meets **Tuesday, March 26** from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Absolution: A Novel* by Alice McDermott. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets on **Wednesday, April 3** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dr. Kieffer (26 Island Bay Lane, 62712). Debbie Parker will lead the devotional by Annie Dillard entitled, "To See Clearly," (pp. 345-349) from the book, *Devotional Classics*.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets on **Monday, April 8** at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Ann Kelson will lead Lesson 9 "People Encounter Jesus Through the Work of the Disciples" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** will meet **Wednesday, April 10 (Note Day Change)** at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Officer Chris Jones will speak about Crimestoppers program. Harvey Stephens will provide breakfast. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

**TRIVIA NIGHT SUNDAY, APRIL 14 - DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.** Each year, members support our youth at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser. Questions begin at 5:30 p.m. This year we are excited to welcome back Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions.

**Tickets are \$20.00, Dinner is \$5.00, Sponsorship is \$100.00.** Childcare is available in the nursery.



**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets on **Tuesday, April 16** at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Joyce Matthews will host and Nancy Scott will lead Lesson 7 “An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

**CONFIRMATION DINNER** will be **Wednesday, April 17** which follows the 6:15 p.m. confirmation presentation to Session. Confirmands, their families, and mentors are invited to enjoy a wonderful meal provided by the Membership Committee.

**DMA (DON’T MENTION AGE)** will meet **Friday, April 19** at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and Program at 6:15 p.m. RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.

**SPRINGFIELD EARTH AWARENESS FAIR ON SATURDAY, APRIL 20** The Earth Care team will host a table on Saturday, April 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with a theme of Water Conservation. The Fair will be held at Union Station across from the Abraham Lincoln Museum. Westminster has been recognized as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Mission Agency for 2024.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY APRIL 21** The Class of 2024 will be recognized and commissioned on Sunday, April 21, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. This is a time of celebration and a milestone on the faith journeys of our youth: William Charles Affrunti, Juliet Kathryn Boutelle, and Juliana Charis Pinckney Eastvold.



**YOUTH SUNDAY APRIL 28** On Sunday, April 28 our youth will lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. This year’s theme is **Vine and Branches** based on John 15:5. Seniors Kristianna Eastvold, Will Hovey, and Sam Simonson will present meditations.

**NEW HARMONY SPRING RETREAT Thursday - Saturday, May 2-4, 2024**

New Harmony, Indiana is a Holy space where visitors meditate and celebrate the wonder and beauty of life and the God who created it. Along with award-winning architecture and sculpture, one can discover and explore labyrinths and a park dedicated to 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian, Paul Tillich.



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. Participants are welcome to drive down Thursday morning to visit the historic city, shop, and enjoy lunch. The retreat will begin with dinner on Thursday evening in the Paul Tillich Dining Room of the Red Geranium Restaurant and conclude at 12 noon on Saturday.

The cost of the two-day retreat is \$250 per person. This includes two nights of lodging and five meals. The Christian Education Endowment is subsidizing the retreat and scholarships are available. Reservations have been made for 40 participants. Applications are available in the West Narthex and on our website at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). **Registration required by April 15, 2024.**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - JUNE 3-7, 2024 CAMP FIRELIGHT** Monday – Friday, June 3-7 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will gather to experience God’s love surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills! Campers learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, we will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God’s name. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God’s work in the world and share the Good News of God’s love through Jesus Christ.

## WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, March 25

- 9:30 AM King's Daughter's Board Meeting  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 4:00 PM Congregational Care (Library)

### Tuesday, March 26

- 10:30 PM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 6:00 PM Apostles Read Book Club (Library)

### Wednesday, March 27

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Library)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group  
(Conference Room)
- 4:00 PM Property Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Helping Hands Meal Delivered
- 5:15 PM Membership Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 5:30 PM Deacon Practice for Good Friday (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 PM Adult Ed Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 7:00 PM Great Decision in WACCI (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom)

### Thursday, March 28

- 4:30 PM Personnel Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 6:30 PM Choir (Music Room)
- 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)

### Friday, March 29

### Saturday, March 30

- 9:30 AM Clean the Chancel and arrange lilies (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, March 31

#### **Easter 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)
- 11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt (Church Lawn)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
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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