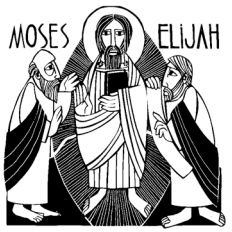


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Transfiguration Sunday

2 March 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Announcements

Voluntary The Transfiguration — Paul Benoit

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: At the heights of our worship,
People: **may God's presence shine through the common place.**
Leader: At the depths of our struggle,
People: **may God's presence give us courage and peace.**
Leader: Shining in the face of Christ,
People: **may God's presence illumine all our days,**
Leader: Let us worship God.

***Hymn 190** Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory — *Geneva*

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy Spirit, sacred breath of God, may the clouds that cover our insight blow away so that we can see again as if for the first time. Sometimes we are afraid of change, we are afraid of the mountains we are called to climb in order to meet you face to face and gain perspective, we are afraid of things we do not understand. Forgive us and strengthen our lives with your radiant and reassuring presence. 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 Spirit
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. 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 and Youth in Pre-K – Grade 7 go to Sunday School and Confirmation following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Exodus 34:29-35 Pew Bible, OT page 81

Second Scripture Reading Luke 9:28-36 Pew Bible, NT page 69-70

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

Sermon In the Clouds Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Luke 9:34

Anthem The Radiant Light of God — Dale Thomas Rogers

Almighty God, you are great indeed, clothed in majesty and splendor; wrapped in light as a glistening robe. In the solitude of a mountain height, you revealed your glory, Jesus Christ, even as he faced his crucifixion. For this glimpse of the mystery of our redemption we praise you. Transfigure us by your spirit; Let your love shine in all that we do and say; that all may see the radiant light of God.

Affirmation of Faith — Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely. and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding shame, and has taken the seat at the right hand of God. Amen

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 Alleluia — Larry Gatlin

May all our alleluias, when spoken and heard be heart-felt thanks to thee, dear Lord, and not just lovely words. And may each passing moment 'til the ending of our earthly days be filled to overflowing with never ending praise. Alleluia!

***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**

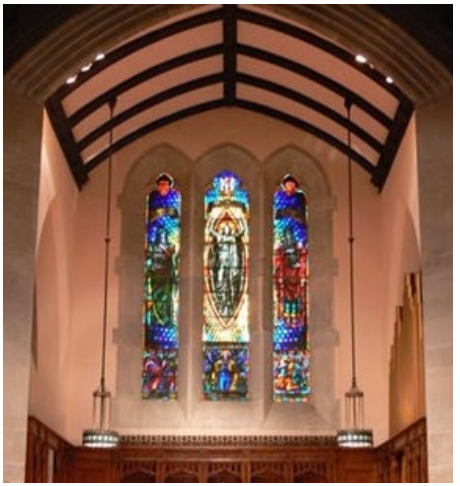
**God of mountaintops and valleys,
whether our vision of you is clouded or clear,
we faithfully add our gifts
to those being given all around us.
Bless these offerings that they may be transfigured
into your presence in the world. Amen.**

*** Hymn 192** Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Grand Choeur in A-Major Théodore Salomé

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.



The Transfiguration Window above Westminster's Chancel features the transfigured Christ in the center, Moses on the left and Elijah on the right representing the Law and the Prophets. Beneath the main subjects are smaller panels of the three disciples John, Peter and James.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist**: Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader**: Maria DeJong
- **Acolytes:** Lucy Bassett and Lily Swanson
- **Greeter:** Norma Adams Johnson
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher) Christian Kennerly, Todd Lafrenz, Claudia Nash, Bill Schlosser, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Sound and Videography:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller, Bill Deemer
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "Jesus, the Good Shepherd" *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Sara Eldridge*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 and youth in Grades 6 - 7** begin in worship & go to Sunday school and Confirmation Prep following the Congregational Response.
  - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "Families Accept Each Other – No Matter What" (Prodigal Son I) *Teachers: Leigh Milward, Maria DeJong*
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** Story: "Listening for Jesus" (Luke 9:28-36) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Cathy Brower*
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** Story: "Just Listen" (Luke 9:28-36) *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Sophia Choi*
  - **Grades 6-7 (Conference Room)** Lesson 34: "Peter" from the Echo curriculum. *Teachers: Meredith Bryans and Cara Barnett*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
  - **Parish Nurse Ministry (Church Office)** Marilyn Rigney is available for consultation.
  - **Grade 8 Confirmation Class (Conference Room)** Lesson Fourteen, "Presbytery Polity" *Teachers: Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer*
  - **Adult Ed Forum: Women in Space (Parish Hall)** This forum illuminates the ways female astronauts overcame gender oppression to transform American space exploration. *Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold*
- **5:00 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall)** Senior high youth and 8th grade students will enjoy Bible study, fellowship and dinner prepared and served by Meridith and Jim Bryans. *Led by: Rev. Sarah, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, and Mary Ray.*

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 at the end of each pew. The next New Member Class meets today and Sunday, March 9 with new members received Sunday, March 16. If you are interested, speak to a pastor.

ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS: WOMEN IN SPACE MARCH 2 AND 9 This course illuminates the ways female astronauts overcame gender oppression to transform American space exploration. Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold

SING BY HEART CHOIR SPRING SESSION The Springfield Choral Society, in partnership with the Dale and Deborah Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine and Westminster Presbyterian Church, continue this joyful musical experience for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. The final session on Wednesday, April 9 will feature a small performance at 11:00 a.m. for family, friends, and the public.

PW LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM will be Friday, March 7 at 12:00 noon in Parish Hall. Rebecca Morales will present "USA Mission Experience." Nancy Canady is the Kitchen Chair and Joyce Matthews is the Chair of the Day. Please RSVP on the website or with Jennie Alt in the church office.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will not meet on March 5 as it is Ash Wednesday. We will gather as a circle for the dinner and worship. We will meet Wednesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Carpenter (2529 Wydown Ave).

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, March 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom and will study Lesson 6 & 7 "Climate Change & Economic Climate Change" from the PW Horizons Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull. Call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST Join the men of Westminster on Thursday, March 13 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Charlie King will speak on his career with the Illinois EPA. Brad Swanson will provide breakfast. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

FINE ARTS DISPLAY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 23 The Worship, Music and Arts Committee will host a Fine Arts Display at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. This event is in celebration of Westminster's 190th anniversary and will provide an opportunity to highlight the work of Westminster's gifted artists. If you would like to participate, contact Dale Rogers.

TRIVIA NIGHT SUNDAY, MARCH 30 Each year, members support our youth mission trip during a fun evening of trivia. Once again, we welcome Aaron Berkowitz and Mark Luttrell who will create and present the questions. **Tickets are $20.00** and can be purchased on our website. **Sponsorship is $100** - You or your business can sponsor a round and will be featured on the screen between rounds. Contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org).

190TH ANNIVERSARY PERE MARQUETTE RETREAT – Join Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers May 1-3 in an exploration of our founding abolitionists and the sacrificial role of Elijah Parrish Lovejoy during the early nineteenth century as we celebrate Westminster's enduring legacy of faith, art, and advocacy. The cost of the two-day retreat is $275 per person (double) and $300 per person (single). This includes two nights of lodging and four meals. Registration forms are in the West Narthex.

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Theme: The Sanctuary for Lent

5:30 p.m. Simple Dinner in Parish Hall
6:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

We begin our Lenten Journey with dinner followed by a family centered worship service including:

- Liturgy and music presented by Bridges children and Children's Choir
- Meditation by Rev. Bishop
- The Imposition of Ashes
- Holy Communion by Intinction

Small votive candles will be given to each worshipper as a tangible reminder for the sanctuary we have in Christ as we journey during this Holy Season.

The Sanctuary for Lent

Meditations from The Sanctuary for Lent devotional book, written by Justin LaRose, (an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church, a licensed clinical social worker), will be emailed to members during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday,

Family Lenten Devotional Calendars

Westminster families received a Lenten Devotional Calendar which includes a word and scripture for each day of Lent. Families are invited to discuss the meaning of each word, take a picture of its meaning for them, and post on the "Westminster Young Families" Facebook Group, and youth are encouraged to share their photo of the day on Instagram by tagging the "Westminyouth_spi" page.

Lenten Candle Service

During Lent, Westminster's Sunday worship service will begin with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. Rather than light a candle each Sunday as we do in Advent, a candle will be extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross. The symbolism of these liturgies will add meaning to our worship as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Lenten Giving

The One Great Hour of Sharing denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed.

A Lenten Coat Drive will collect coats in the West Narthex. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and be donated to Contact Ministries.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, March 3
9:30 AM Garden Club (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, March 4
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
12:00 PM KDO – Willing Circle (Youth Room)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
4:30 PM Steadfast Neighbor Committee (Pastor's Study)
5:30 PM PNC Meeting (Library)
5:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts Meeting (Pastor's Study)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, March 5
10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel
10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Choir (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM Depression & Bi-Polar Support (Youth Room)
4:30 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)
5:00 PM Bridges/Children's Choir (Music Room)
5:30 PM Ash Wednesday Dinner (Parish Hall)
6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 6
1:30 PM Memory Loss Graduate Group (2nd Flr Classroom)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
6:30 PM WCP Board Meeting (Zoom Call)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 7
11:00 AM PW Board Meeting (Conference Room)
12:00 PM PW Luncheon (Parish Hall)

Saturday, March 8
11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Symphony Scholarship Auditions (Sanctuary)

Sunday, March 9
Holy Communion
9:00 AM New Members Class (Pastor's Study)
10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Chapel Classroom)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

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Phone (217) 522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

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

Kara Milward, 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

Braden Barton, James Capler, Terry Gietl, Javier Velásquez
Part-time Custodians