



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Sunday of Lent
Communion Sunday
9 March 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

François Couperin

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Leader: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

People: **The journey begins in the wilderness.**

Leader: We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

People: **Like Jesus, we are not alone.**

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's word is on our lips.

Leader: Our call is to trust God and every word that comes
from God's mouth for we shall not live by bread alone.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Lenten Candle Service

As we extinguish the first Lenten candle and begin our journey into the wilderness with Christ, we remember the loving presence of God's spirit and the words given to Christ in a time of temptation. May God give us that same strength and grace when we face temptation to be less than our best self. Let us pray:

Holy and loving God, in you we live and move and have our being. Everything we have comes from you, every breath, every moment, every relationship, every provision, our daily bread. May your Word sustain us and nourish us along our way. Amen.

*Hymn 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, forgive us for the hubris and arrogance which seeks to deny our humanity and for the times we are manipulated by false words or speak false words ourselves. Holy God, forgive us when we pray for easy lives rather than for your powers to equal the tasks before us. Forgive us when we fall short of living our best humanity. 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

Spirit of the 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

Children in Pre-K through Grade 5 go to Sunday School class following the Congregational Response. Youth in grades 6 and 7 remain in worship for communion.

First Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Pew Bible, OT pages 180-181

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 4:1-13

Pew Bible, NT pages 61

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation A Modest Proposal Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Luke 13:4

Anthem Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Franz Schubert

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**The Presentation of Our Gifts
and Prayer of Dedication**

At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders at the end of each pew

Offertory Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Offertory Response Doxology Hymnal, 606

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Invitation to the Lord's Table
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

The people sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine...
Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

Words of Institution

Music at Communion

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak Dennis Jenigan

Distribution of Elements

The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.

*Prayer after Communion

Holy and Loving God, thank you for the tenderness of your words which strengthen us for our journeys and for the nourishment we have received at this table. Give us the grace and courage to accept the limitations that are a part of our humanity. We ask this in the name of the One who is our strength when we are weak and our all in all. Amen.

***Hymn 509**

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Holy Manna

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

Amen

William Smith

***Voluntary**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Louis Vierne

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Call to Worship and Lenten Candle Service:** Peter Hancock
- **Greeters:** Judi Mier and Mary Beth Norton
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte Affrunti and Brooke Boutelle
- **Cross and Bible Carriers:** William Affrunti and James Maeda
- **Today's Communion Bread** is Old Fashioned White Bread and prepared by Pat McNutt
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Judy Knox, Team Leader, Sam Batterman, John Cross, Joe Fierstos, Gregg Humphrey, Julie McDonough, Pat McNutt, Pat Moore, Marilyn Rigney, Julie Robbs, Greg Swanson, Jeanne Van Gieson
- **Communion Prep:** Mary Ray, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Krista Steller
- **Home Communion Delivery:** Bud & Melanie Green, Meleah, Aaron, Sam, & Junie Berkowitz
- **Ushers:** Greg Boutelle (Head Usher) Christian Kennerly, Todd Lafrenz, Claudia Nash, Bill Schlosser, Bernie Wiseman, Randy Wiseman, Cathy Yokley
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano and Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Safety Team:** Brad Steller
- **Videography and Sound:** Krista Steller, Bill Deemer

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY

- **9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. New Member Class (Pastor's Study)** Those interested in membership join Dr. Kieffer, Rev. Bishop and Membership Committee Chair, Judy Knox in the Pastor's Study.
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "Creation" *Caregivers: Kara Milward, Linda Caupert, Maria Lafrenz*

- **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: “God Always Welcomes Us Home” (Prodigal Son 2) *Teachers: Cathy Brower, Sara Eldridge*
- **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** Story: “In the Wilderness” (Luke 4:1-13) *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Katrina Opperman*
- **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** Story: “Jesus is Tempted” (Luke 4:1-13) *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Chelsea Ekstedg*
- **11:15 a.m. – Noon**
 - **Grade 8 Confirmation Class (Conference Room)** Lesson Fifteen, “Presbyterian Worship” *Teachers: Rev. Sarah Bishop and Mary Ray*
 - **Adult Ed Forum: Women in Space (Parish Hall)** The second session of this forum illuminates the ways female astronauts overcame gender oppression to transform American space exploration. *Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold*
 - **Mission and Community Service Committee (Second Floor Classroom)**

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 New Member Class meets today with new members received next Sunday, March 16. If you are interested, speak to a pastor.

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. **This morning new member Peter Hancock will lead us.** Peter joined Westminster in March 2024 and is a reporter with the Capitol News Illinois Team.



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 on Wednesday mornings. The final session on Wednesday,

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.

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 or Sunday mornings in the West Narthex beginning Sunday, March 16. **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.

THE SEASON OF LENT

LENTEN GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

The Easter Music Fund provides funds for the Millikin Brass Quartet on Easter Day as well as for other musical offerings throughout the season.

The Easter Decorations Fund provides for the palms and lilies for Holy Week and Easter. The suggested donation is \$25. For both Easter music and Easter decoration giving opportunities, a list of donors and those for whom they are remembering will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Make a donation to WPC with the appropriate designation. The deadline for the bulletin wording is Palm Sunday, April 13.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS AND VOTIVE CANDLES

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), are emailed daily to members during Lent.

Votive Candles were distributed on Ash Wednesday as a tangible reminder of the sanctuary we have in Christ and can be found in the West Narthex.

A **Lenten Devotional Calendar** was mailed to Westminster families received 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.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, March 10

1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, March 11

10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
5:30 PM PNC Meeting (Library)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off site)

Wednesday, March 12

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)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
6:00 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)
7:00 PM Great Decisions in WACCI
(3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, March 13

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Class)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 14

1:00 PM Helping Hands Bagged Lunch (Kitchen)

Saturday, March 15

9:00 AM Moore Family Gathering (Parish Hall)
11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, March 16

9:00 AM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)
9:30 AM New Members meet Session (Library)
10:00 AM Worship Service
10:15 AM Sunday School Pre K-5 (Tower Classroom)
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:00 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)
11:15 AM Adult Education Forum (Parish Hall)
11:15 AM Youth Mission Trip Meeting for Adult
Leaders (Second Floor Classroom)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415 www.wpcspi.org

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Reverend 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