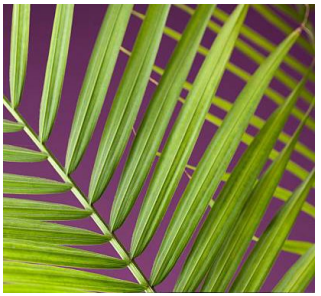


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
13 April 2025 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary Fanfare — Arthur Bliss

***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!

***Lenten Candle Service** We begin Holy Week with our children and youth processing and waving palm leaves to commemorate the triumphant entry of Christ. As we extinguish the sixth Lenten candle, we remember Christ's confidant humility and courage on his long walk home 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. May we follow the path of our Savior with integrity and may our lives shout with glory, laud, and honor to our Redeemer. Amen.

***Processional Hymn 196** All Glory, Laud, and Honor — *Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*

Children's Sermon

***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.

Anthems

Six Weeks of Lent Before Easter — Ann Ker
My God is With Me — Mark Patterson
Hosanna! Heysanna! — Suzanne Lord

The Westminster Children's Choir

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.

Children in Pre-K through Grade 5 go to Sunday School class following the Congregational Response. Youth remain in worship.

Scripture Reading

Luke 19:28-40 — Pew Bible, NT page 83

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

Meditation

The Long Walk Home — Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. Luke 19:28

Anthem O Divine Redeemer — Charles Gounod

Ah! Turn me not away, receive me, though unworthy.
Hear thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress.
Answer me from thy throne: hast thee, Lord, to my aid.
Thy pity show in my deep anguish! Not the sword
of vengeance smite me, though righteous thine anger, O Lord.
Shield me in danger, O regard me! On thee, alone will I trust.
O Divine Redeemer! I pray thee, grant me pardon,
and remember not my sins. Forgive me.
Night gathers 'round my soul; fearful, I cry to thee.
O Divine Redeemer, have mercy. Help me, my Savior. Amen.

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 The Palms — Jean-Baptiste Fauré

Offertory Response Doxology — Hymnal, 606

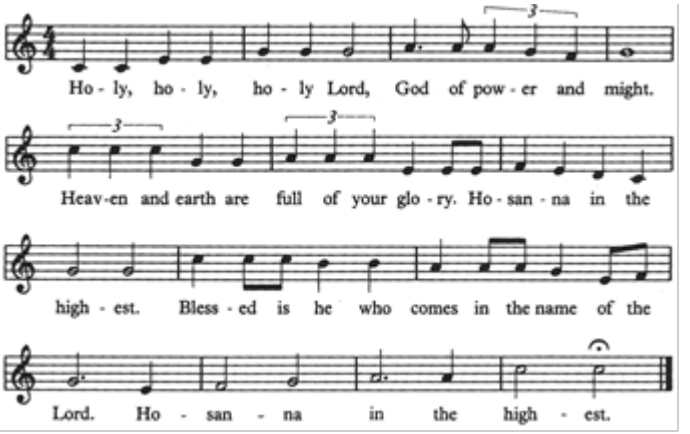
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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:



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 Of Banquet and of Song David L. Mitchell

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**	**Loving God, give us the humility and confidence of Christ, who, though being one with you, took on the form of a servant and shared our human life and sufferings. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service and who have seen the generosity of your love live with kindness and joy. Amen.**	
***Hymn 93**	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	*Truro*
***Charge and Benediction**		
***Closing Response**	Amen	William Smith
***Voluntary**	Crown Imperial	William Walton

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

HOLY WEEK

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY

April 13 – April 20 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 17

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing *To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord*, *What Wondrous Love is This*, and *Lamb of God*. The service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the *Adagio for Strings* of Samuel Barber and the seven last words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

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*, *The Coronation Te Deum* of Stanford 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.

SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Call to Worship and Lenten Candle Service:** Charlotte Affrunti, Kate Bryans, Charlie Graham, 2025 Confirmands
- **Greeters:** Cathy, Nathaniel, and Ben Brower **Acolytes:** Conner Hill and Lily Swanson
- **Fish Basket Carriers:** Macklin Metzger and Sam Batterman
- **Cross and Bible Carriers:** William Affrunti and James Maeda
- **Today's Communion Bread** is Whole Wheat and Honey Bread and prepared by Priscilla Kluge
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Scott Day (Team Leader), Brownie Anderson, Sam Batterman, Jonathan Carlson-Eastvold, Tara Fritsch, Rachael Hickman, Vonnie Hinesley, David Jenkins, Amanda Maddox-Wenthe, Mary Ray, Lyle VanDeventer, Brinton Wilkey
- **Communion Prep:** Mary Ray, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Krista Steller
- **Home Communion:** Bud & Melanie Green, Marilyn Rigney, Mary Ray & Val Leonatti, Eleanor & Lyle Van Deventer
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Greg Boutelle, Deb Fritsch, Chris Hickman, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Debra Parker, Brad Steller
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, The Westminster Children's Choir, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Videography and Sound:** Bob Fox, Krista Steller, Bill Deemer

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. Congregational Fellowship Meeting (Pastor's Study)**
- **9:00 a.m. Earth Care Team Meeting (Library)**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. This week's story: "We are Sad that Jesus Died" (Jesus Dies and Rises) Caregivers: Kara Milward, Priscilla Kluge
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5** begin in worship & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. Youth in Grades 6 – 7 stay in worship for Communion
  - **Preschool - Ages 3-5 (Preschool Classroom lower level)** Story: "We Remember that Jesus Died" (Easter Story) Teachers: Leigh Milward, Maria DeJong
  - **Kindergarten - Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** This week's story: "Entering Jerusalem" (Luke 19:28-40) Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Cathy Brower
  - **Grades 3-5 (Third Floor Classroom)** This week's story: "Palm Sunday" (Luke 19:28-40) Teacher: Aaron Berkowitz
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall) presents American Revolution.** Today is the second and final session of the class. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.
- **5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group -** Senior high youth and 8th grade students will enjoy Bible study, fellowship and dinner prepared and served by Cara and Chris Barnett. 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 on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining the next new member class, speak to Dr. Kieffer or Rev. Bishop.

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 71 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, April 14.

LENTEN CANDLE SERVICE During Lent, Westminster's Sunday worship service begins with a Lenten Candle Service woven into the Call to Worship. A candle has been extinguished each Sunday of Lent leading to Easter to commemorate Christ's journey to the cross. **This morning, confirmands Charlotte Affrunti, Kate Bryans, and Charlie Graham will lead us.**

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on Monday, April 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Lynn McMenamin will lead Lesson 8 & 9 "Intergenerational Justice & Sustaining Creations Health for All" from the Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on Tuesday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Joyce Matthews. Joyce will host and Nancy Scott will lead Lesson 7 "Economic Climate Justice" PW Horizon's Bible Study Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, April 22 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss This is How it Always Is by Laurie Frankel. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

DINNER CELEBRATING OUR CONFIRMANDS will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at 7:15 p.m. in the Library, following the 6:15 p.m. presentation to Session. Confirmands and mentors are: Charlotte Affrunti/Cathy Brower, Taryn Barnett/ Krista Steller, Kate Bryans/Susan Day, Charlie Graham/Cress Maddox. Confirmation Sunday is May 4.

YOUTH SUNDAY On Sunday, April 27, our youth will lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service. This year's theme is **Joy in Christ Amid Questions** based on John 20:19-31. Senior Liliana Kennerly and Junior Liam Kiszely will present reflections on the text. Junior and Senior High youth will serve as liturgists and present special music.

ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS: FAITH, ART, ADVOCACY PART III: ABOLITIONISM Sundays, April 27, May 11 As Westminster celebrates 190 years of Faith, Art, and Advocacy, the Adult Education Forum will present the nineteenth century abolition movement. On April 27, Dr. Peter Kieffer will highlight the giants in the movement including Elijah Parish Lovejoy who was martyred in the year 1837 in Alton, IL. On May 11, Dale Rogers will shed light on the rich history of Mercy, James, and Clinton L. Conkling. This forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall following worship.

WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, April 14

1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)
5:30 PM Compass Volunteer Dinner (Parish Hall)
5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Retirement Committee (Pastor's Study)

Tuesday, April 15

9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
4:00 PM Memorial Garden Committee (Pastor's Study)
5:30 PM PNC Meeting (Library)
7:00 PM St. Andrews Sisters rehearsal (Off site)

Wednesday, April 16

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 (Youth Room)
4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
6:30 PM Dungeons and Dragons (Library)
7:00 PM Great Decision in WACCI (3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, April 17

1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
1:30 PM Memory Loss Graduate Meeting (2nd Floor Classrm)
4:00 PM WPC Pastor at IL Presbyterian Home (Off site)
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)
8:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, April 18

12:00 PM Good Friday Church Office closed at Noon

Saturday, April 19

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

Sunday, April 20

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
533 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465
http://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