



October 22, 2017 11:15 a.m.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Songs #535 "Bless the Lord, O My Soul"
#658 "God Is So Good"

Welcome and Living Our Faith

Call to Worship

The Lord said to Abram:

**“I will bless you, and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.”**

We are children of Abram; we are heirs of the promise –
sent to bear God’s blessing to the world.

Let us give thanks to the One who claims and calls us.

Let us worship God!

Song #657 “Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness”

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy -
all that we do, and all that we are
should be a joyful response to your grace.
Yet, we do not live out of constant gratitude.
We harbor resentment for what we lack.
We blame you; we blame others.
We doubt your compassion, even your power.
We find it hard to give of ourselves
in generous expressions of gratitude and praise.
Forgive us, we pray.
Heal and restore us
so that we may return to you with a right spirit.
Help us to live the holy and joyful lives
you call us to live.
We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.**

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

Genesis 12:1-4a

Response

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Blessed to be a Blessing”

Sudie Niesen Thompson

Testimonies of Janet Steinwedel, Craig Stabler, and Carrie Saathoff

Refrain #205

Live in charity and steadfast love.

Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

Offering

Please sign the blue friendship notebook and pass it to the person next to you.

Song #717

“For the Life That You Have Given”

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Song #700

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Verse 1-3

Sending

Song #700

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

Verse 4

*Following worship, please join us in the Meeting Room
for coffee, tea, and fellowship.*

SERMON SERIES: WHY CHURCH?

The Golden Age of the church has passed. Or has it? The church will never regain its place of importance. Or will it? The Christian Church in the West has been on a downward slide for decades. Belief in God remains high among Americans, but church membership is on the decline. Is this the long, slow death of Christianity, or is it the long, slow death of the church as we know it today? Are we living in the final days of the church or could this be the beginning of the reformation of the church?

On seven Sundays this fall, Dr. Jones will lay out the reasons that the church is absolutely crucial to the state of the world.

October 8	The Church Plays a Critical Role in Society	November 19	Serving the World, Finding Our Soul
October 15	Where Community is Built	December 3	A Prophetic Voice
November 5	Can the Church Revive Our Sense of Enchantment with the World?	December 10	Where We Find Hope
November 12	Shaping Character		

We are thankful for your presence and participation this morning. Westminster has two worship options each Sunday. Our other Sunday morning worship service is held at 9:00 a.m., and includes a choir, organ music and a brief Children's Message. Both services include prayers, singing, scripture and sermon.

Please remember in your prayers Bob Kline, Barbara Miller, Robin Rosser and Ed Wat who were recently hospitalized.

Children are welcome in worship. You will find yellow worship bags for all children at the chapel entrance.

Pastors: Gregory Knox Jones and Sudie Niesen Thompson

Pianist: Sharon Babcock

Song Leader: Christian Sanders

Digital Artist: Bob Cox



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