



8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

Westminster Presbyterian Church extends an enthusiastic welcome, in Christ's name, to all who worship here or join us in fellowship. Our church family seeks to embody God's boundless love by embracing, liberating and empowering people – whoever they are and wherever they may be on their faith journeys – to realize the transforming power of Christ in our congregation, community and the world beyond.



**A Covenant Network Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

1502 West 13th Street ♦ Wilmington, DE 19806 ♦ 302-654-5214 ♦ www.wpc.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our virtual worship service. We invite you to participate in the liturgy by joining the worship leader on lines printed in **bold**.

The materials attached at the end of the bulletin for worshipping with children are provided by Illustrated Ministry. Please print them to participate in this service or for family devotions throughout the week. Westminster's educational offerings have also moved online. You can find this week's opportunities at the end of this Order of Worship.

We hope you will stay connected with our community of faith during this season of social distancing by subscribing to the *Westminster Weekly Word* e-newsletter through the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org), liking us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware), or following us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/wpcdelaware).

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ellen Hickmott by her son, Bob Hickmott.

Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event, while expressing praise and thanksgiving to God. Please contact Linda Watson during business hours at 302-571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com to choose a date. The next available dates are August 2 and 30.

Let us worship God!

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather at the feet of Jesus seeking wisdom and understanding.

He shares parables that spark our interest and arouse our craving for more.

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that has been planted.

Like a tiny seed that will grow into something grand?

The kingdom of heaven is like yeast mixed into flour.

How is it like yeast?

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.

A buried treasure? Is there a map with an X on it?

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls.

Pearls are elegant. Where can I gaze upon God's beautiful kingdom?

The kingdom of heaven is like a net that catches all kinds of fish – some good and some bad.

The fishermen will keep the good fish and toss out the bad.

Yikes! This sounds serious.

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing. Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.	That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.
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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, we confess that we often fail to become the people you call us to be.
We live more in apathy born of cynicism than in passion born of hope.
We are motivated more by private ambition than by social justice.
We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice.
Help us to peer deep within ourselves and recover the divine image within us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sudie Niesen Thompson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50

SERMON

“Glimpses of God’s Kingdom”

Greg Jones

HYMN NO. 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Vs. 1 & 3

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!	O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here’s my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sudie Niesen Thompson

LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.	There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul. Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend, and if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend.
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BENEDICTION

GOING FORTH: OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES TO GOD

With gratitude for the grace we have received, we go forth from worship to offer our energy, our hands, and part of our income in service to God. One way we respond to Christ's call is by giving our financial gifts to further God's mission in the world. You may mail a check to the church or make an online offering to support the many ministries of Westminster Presbyterian Church by clicking "Donate Now" on the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org).

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). We invite you to share signs of Christ's peace with those with whom you are gathered, or to pass the peace virtually by calling, emailing, or texting your family and friends in our congregation and beyond.

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
Alexis Droke: Director of Music for Children and Youth
Soloists/Section Leaders: Hye Eun Choi, Olivia Forney, Jason Berger, Brenton Mattox
Videographers: Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker and Baden Saathoff

SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Westminster John Knox Press for making available the complete list of public domain hymns included in the *Glory to God* hymnal and to Illustrated Ministry (www.illustratedministry.com) for our children's bulletins.

Congregational Meeting TODAY at 11:00 a.m.

Please check the letter that was mailed to you from Westminster for details on how you can be part of the meeting.

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Virtual Christian education and small group opportunities can also be found on the homepage of the Westminster website (www.wpc.org). Midweek Bible studies continue through the summer, and new faces are always welcome!

Compassion Camp LIVE on Zoom

TODAY and August 2
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

We are using Illustrated Ministry's COMPASSION CAMP online VBS curriculum for Sunday School fun, live on Zoom! There will be music, movement, Bible stories, games, crafts, and friends! Compassion Camp is designed for kids ages 4-11, and younger kids are welcome at parents' discretion. For security reasons, there be a **unique link every week** emailed in our Christian education email blast on Tuesdays. Email Chesna (chesnahinkley@wpc.org) to be added to the list.



180 Youth Ministry

FOR RISING 6TH – 12TH GRADERS

180 is on hiatus until the fall.
Follow us for more on Instagram @180youth_wpc.



Online Bible Studies

Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. OR
Thursdays 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. on Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/4937200361>

Presenter: Chesna Hinkley

Our Bible studies are continuing the book of Exodus this week. New faces are always welcome! Contact Chesna (chesnahinkley@wpc.org) with questions.

Women's Online Community Group

Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Jill Getty

For women of the church to provide connection and friendship, this group meets on Zoom. If you are interested, please email Jill Getty at jgetty@wpc.org and she will add you to the weekly participant email list to receive the Zoom link and password.

WPC Peace & Justice Education Events

Westminster's Peace & Justice Work Group is excited to continue a program of education events on **Thursday evenings**. Look for more topics and information in the *Weekly Word* e-newsletter and on the WPC [Facebook](#) page.



UP NEXT: Thursday, July 30, 7:00 p.m.

McBride, Lockman and Young on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84768977211>

On Thursday, July 30, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, we will feature State Senate Candidate Sarah McBride, State Senator Tizzy Lockman, and Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League Executive Director Eugene Young. Come learn how Delaware has responded to recent marches for change and what remains to be done. Join us at the Zoom link above. Or, go to zoom.us/join, enter Meeting ID **847 6897 7211** and click "Join."

UPCOMING DEACON EVENT

Social Distancing Hike

Saturday, August 1 • 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Another Deacon-sponsored, social-distancing hike is planned for Alapocas Run State Park on August 1! This event is limited to 10 people. Please be sure that everyone in your family who is required to wear a mask brings one to wear. If you'd like to participate, please email Debbie Wise at djwise99@gmail.com. The meeting point will be emailed to participants. Future hikes are planned for August 15 and 29; and September 12 and 26.

SYRIAN COLLECTION DROP-OFF INFORMATION

August 2
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

August 3
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

August 4
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

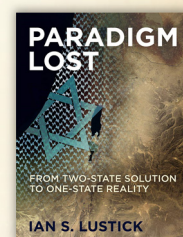


At last! The time is quickly approaching to drop off your donations at Westminster for our Interfaith Collection for Syrian Refugees. If you have waited to clean those closets, there is still time! [Click here](#) to see our flyer with an updated list of requested items. This week we added pencils, crayons, pencil sharpeners and rulers to the list. Donated items can be dropped off at Westminster Presbyterian Church (by the double blue doors off 13th Street, near Community Hall) during the dates and times shown above and on the flyer. Your donations will soon be loaded into a shipping container and on its way to Syria. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

PARADIGM LOST

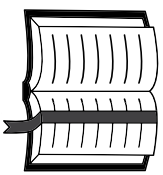
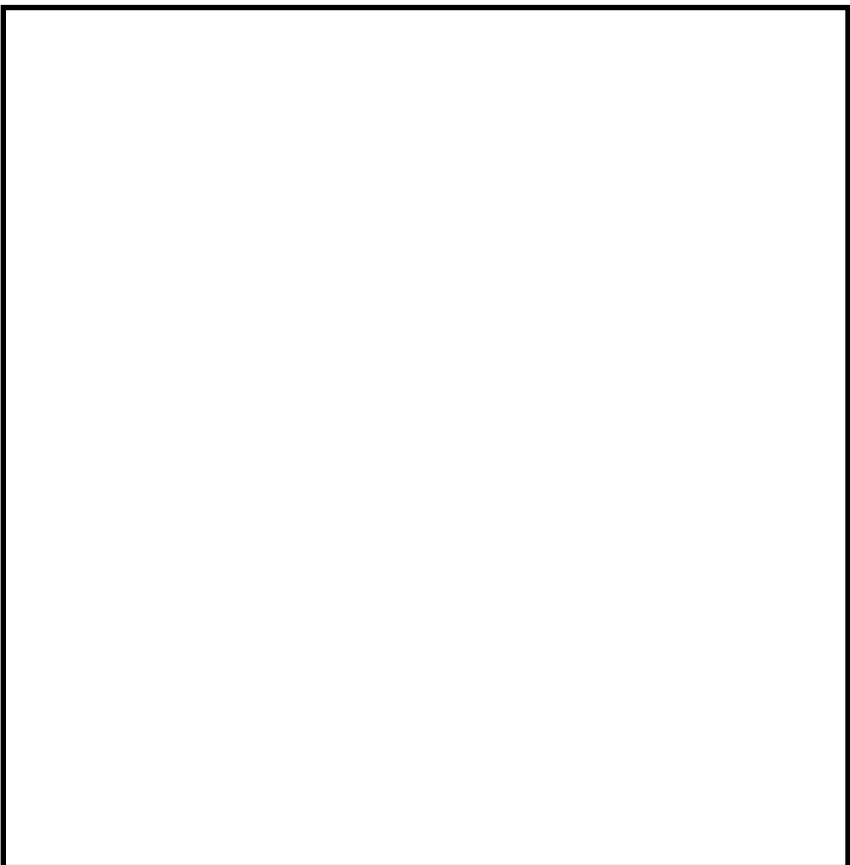
Wednesday, August 5 • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Why have Israelis and Palestinians failed to achieve a two-state solution? Professor Ian Lustick (University of Pennsylvania) has analyzed this Middle East conflict for 50 years and argues that the two-state solution is dead. The only option available is a one-state solution. Join Dr. Lustick for his presentation (via Zoom) on Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m. To register, RSVP to delawarephr@gmail.com.



DRAW IT

In Matthew 13, Jesus shares parables describing the kingdom of heaven. He says the kingdom of heaven is like a seed in a field, yeast in bread, treasure in a field, a merchant finding a pearl, and a net used to catch fish. Draw the parable you especially like.



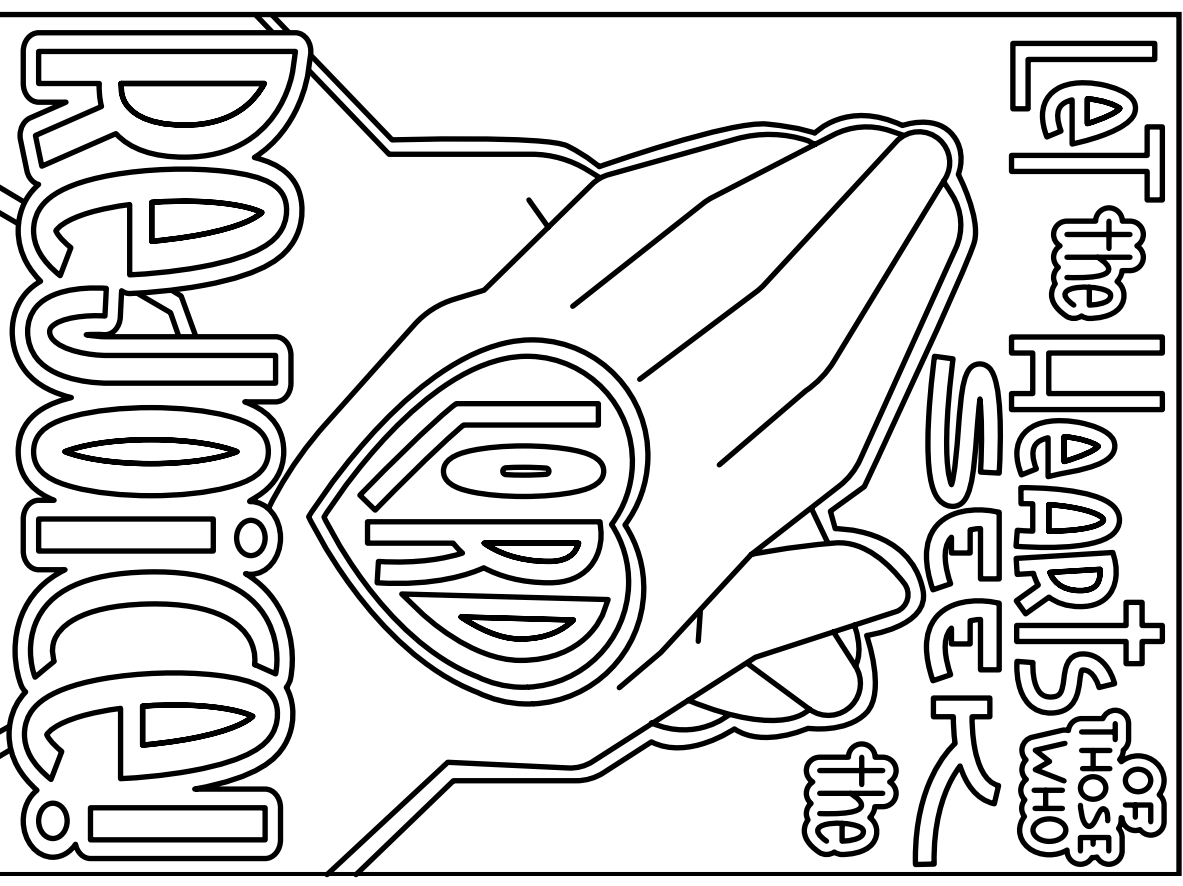
Illustrated
— MINISTRY —

Suggested for use on July 26, 2020 based on the RCL.

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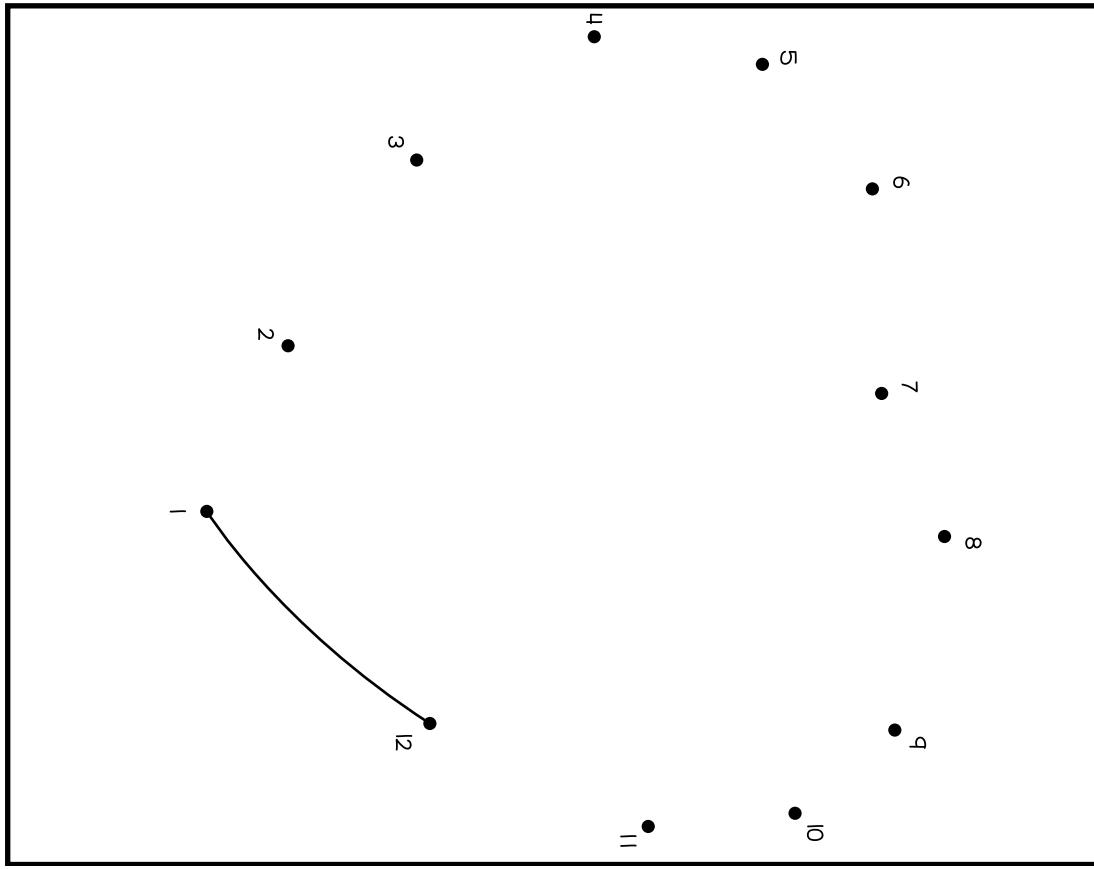
CHILDRENN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.



CONNECT the DOTS

Romans 8 promises us the Holy Spirit knows and hears the prayers of our hearts, even when we are too tired or hurting to pray. Connect the dots to form the heart. Inside, write or draw some needs you want to pray about.



SOLVE (the) MAZE

Many people traveled distances to hear Jesus and be healed. Help the people reach him.

