



5th Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020

9:00 a.m.

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

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Lord, open unto me.
Open unto me - light for my darkness.
Open unto me - courage for my fear.
Open unto me - hope for my despair.
Open unto me - peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me - joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me - strength for my weakness.
Open unto me - wisdom for my confusion.
Open unto me - forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me - love for my hates.
Open unto me - thy Self for myself.
Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.* (Howard Thurman)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you! Welcome to Westminster Presbyterian Church's virtual worship service. We invite you to use these materials in the way that is most meaningful for you. If you are worshipping by yourself, you may choose to read the Leader's (non-bold) lines silently and the People's (**bold**) lines aloud. If you are worshipping with others, you may decide to have one person read the Leader's lines aloud and have all who are gathered join their voices as one on the People's lines. We invite you to play the accompanying video for the elements of worship marked with ✠.

Illustrated Ministry has provided the attached materials for worshipping with children. We hope you will print them out and use them for participation in this service or for family devotions throughout the week. Westminster's educational offerings have also moved online! You can find information about this week's offerings 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 Weekly Word through the homepage of our website (www.wpc.org), liking us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/wpcdelaware>), or following us on Instagram (wpcdelaware).

Let us worship God!

GATHERING

We invite you to play our worship video by following the link posted at www.wpc.org.

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Isaiah 40:31

Those who turn toward the Lord shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up with wings as eagles.
They shall run and not be weary;
They shall walk and not faint.

**Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks,
and sing!**

**Yes, on through life’s long path,
still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day,
in gladness and in woe:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks,
and sing!**

At this time, we invite you to pause the video and continue worshiping on your own.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not give us a spirit of cowardice,
but seeks to inspire in us courage, determination and hope.
Let us confess our reluctance to trust God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mighty God, by your power Christ was raised from death
to rule this world with love.
We confess that we fall into doubt and fear
and fail to trust your promise of new life in Christ.
Forgive our dread of dying and bolster our belief in the resurrection
so that we may live our lives in joy
and with hope for everlasting life in your kingdom.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

We have the assurance of Scripture that neither death, nor life,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, Spirit of justice and love, the Scriptures reveal the truth about you and about life. As we prepare to hear the word read and proclaimed, we open our hearts, we open our minds; we open our entire beings to you. Guide and direct us to the lives you would have us live. Amen.

If you would like to reflect upon multiple passages of Scripture, we invite you to choose one or more of the day’s lectionary readings to read silently or aloud. These texts are available at: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. Be sure to select the readings for the fifth Sunday in Lent.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

PSALM

Psalm 130

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

At this time, we invite you to continue playing our worship video.

✦ EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4-13

✦ SERMON

“Sheltering in Place”

Greg Jones

✦ HYMN NO. 436

“God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us”

Vs. 1 – 3

**God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
patience untiring and courage unailing.**

**Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.**

**How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?**

OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE

✦ 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**

✦ SENDING (Hymn No. 846)

“Fight the Good Fight”

Vs. 1 & 4

**Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.**

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 time, our talent, and our treasure 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 make an online offering to support the ministry 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 siblings in Christ.

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
Sharon Babcock, Interim Director of Music
Song Leader: Hye Eun Choi
Videographer: Roger Reinicker

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 (<https://www.illustratedministry.com/>) for providing free resources for children of all ages to use during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This Week’s Educational Offerings

Today at 10:10 a.m.

Commissioned Guatemala Travelers Report Back

<https://zoom.us/j/4937200361>

Presenter: The Guatemala Partnership Team

After (or before!) virtual worship this Sunday, stick around for virtual 10:TEN Christian education! This is a LIVE presentation (not recorded), so please join us on time at 10:10 a.m. Visit Westminster’s Zoom classroom at the above link to hear a report from our January mission to Guatemala. Westminster travelers will share highlights of their recent weeklong trip, which strengthened relationships with our in-country partners and broadened our understanding of how they are working to address the critical issues they are facing today. We hope you will join us to hear about the progress and possibilities of this partnership. Be sure to read the blog!

UPCOMING:

Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. OR Thursdays 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Bible Study

<https://zoom.us/j/4937200361>

Presenter: Chesna Hinkley

While Westminster is closed, the "Eat and Exegete" Bible study will move to Westminster's Zoom classroom at the above link! Visit the link at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays OR 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. This is a LIVE Bible study! Both groups will meet together until the church reopens. Contact Chesna (chesnahinkley@wpc.org) with questions.

Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

Online Evening Prayer

<https://zoom.us/j/4937200361>

Presenter: Chesna Hinkley

Click the link above on Wednesday evenings for a short, informal LIVE prayer service starting on April 1. We will share a liturgy and some open time to pray for ourselves, our community, and the world. Use a laptop or smartphone for optimal experience with this technology.