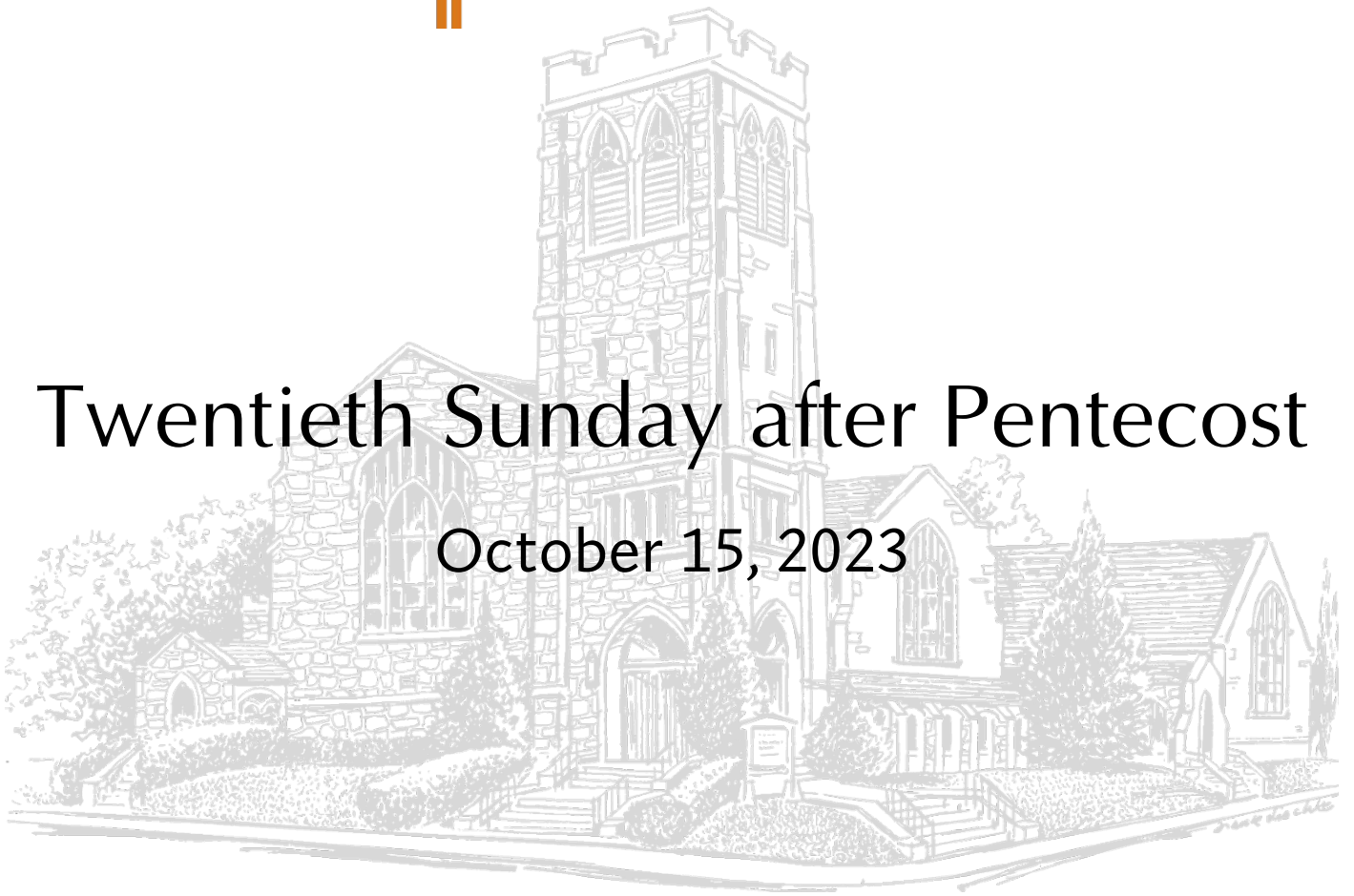




WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023



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 (U.S.A.)

An Earth Care Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A Matthew 25 Church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

TODAY AT WESTMINSTER

8:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers in Preschool Suite D

9:00 – 9:55 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

Time with Our Children (approximately 9:15 a.m.)

The young and young-at-heart are invited to join the worship leader at the front of the sanctuary. Following the TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN, young ones through grade 5 may be escorted for Children's Programming or they are welcome to remain in worship.

Children's Programming (9:20 – 10:00 a.m.)

- Preschool Sunday School: Ages 3 and 4 in the Preschool Suite Room C
- Joyful Noise Choir: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in the Youth Music Room

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Fall Festival**
See announcement on page 5.

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Flying Solo brunch** at BBC Tavern and Grill
4019 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. **180° Youth Group** in Walton Community Hall and Classroom 6

For descriptions of our programs for children and youth, visit wpc.org/children-youth.

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The Music: Today's anthem text calls all people to a life of service. The Westminster Choir is looking for a few more women, men and youth, high school, and college. Weekly rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m. and on Sundays at 8 a.m. The Westminster Handbell Choir needs one (1) more player to ring five (5) octaves of handbells for Christmas. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30 p.m. For more information or to participate, contact TonyThurman@wpc.org.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jay Spilecki by his family.

The flowers in the Narthex are from yesterday's memorial service for Rick Zumsteg.

Consider giving the flowers for Sunday worship to remember or honor loved ones or to celebrate an event. Please contact Linda Watson at (302) 571-6719 or lwatson@ycst.com. Dates available are December 3, 17, and 31.

The rosebud this morning is to celebrate the birth of Natalie Jean Lindemann on September 28. Natalie is the daughter of Ben and Robin Lindemann.

Westminster's Prayer Team prays for the needs of our community. Submit your prayer request to wpcprayerlist@gmail.com or online at wpc.org/care-support.

You can make a contribution to Westminster Presbyterian Church by visiting our website at wpc.org and clicking the "Donate" button or scan this QR code on your smart phone. → We accept donations by bank withdrawal, credit card, and debit card.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

~ Passages in **bold** print may be spoken by all. At the asterisk (*) please stand in body or rise in spirit. ~

TOWER CHIME

Sara Gavenonis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Chorale-Prelude on BEACH SPRING

Wilbur Held

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 25:6-9, adapted)

On the day of the Lord,
God will make for all people
a feast of rich foods and well-aged wines.

**The Lord will destroy the shroud that is cast over us;
God will swallow up death forever
and wipe away every tear.**

On that day the people of God will say:

**This is the Lord, for whom we have waited;
let us rejoice in God's saving love.**

*HYMN NO. 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Extravagant God,
you invite us to your table in the kingdom of heaven.
But we do not take our place at the feast.
We say, "We have more important things to do,"
and turn back to labors
that threaten to consume us.
Beckon us again, we pray,
that we may respond with gratitude.
In your mercy, gather us in
that we might experience the joy of your kingdom
and taste the abundance of your grace. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

(See "Today at Westminster" on page 2 for more information.)

Gregory Knox Jones

ANTHEM

Come, Labor On

T. Tertius Noble
arr. John Ferguson

Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
“Go work today.”

Come, labor on.
Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.

Come, labor on.
Away with gloomy doubts and fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here;
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill
God’s righteous will.

Come, labor on.
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o’er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
“Well done, well done!”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 22:1-14

New Testament, page 21

SERMON

Sudie Niesen Thompson

*HYMN NO. 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

A Prayer for Peace

John Williams

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.**

*HYMN NO. 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe

G.F. Handel

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New to Westminster? Welcome! We're so glad you're here. If you are joining us for the first time, please introduce yourself via our contact form on the [I'm New](#) page of our website or scan this QR code to get there from your mobile device. We look forward to getting to know you.



FALL FESTIVAL

TODAY

10 a.m. (following the 9 a.m. service)

GAMES

FOOD

CRAFTS

COSTUMES ARE ENCOURAGED!

Sponsored by the Westminster Deacons.

*Rain location: Walton Community Hall

ADULT EDUCATION

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Climate 101

Presenters: Dustyn Thompson, Chapter Director, and Marissa McClenton, Environmental Justice Associate Organizer, Sierra Club Delaware Chapter



10:10 a.m. | Classroom 6 and Zoom

Zoom link: bit.ly/wpc-adult-ed-zoom

Dustyn and Marissa will help us understand the climate changes Delaware is going to experience, environmental justice issues created and worsened by climate change, and how the State is addressing climate changes through legislation and regulation.

Forgiveness: Finding Peace through Letting Go (Session 3)

*Video series by Adam Hamilton
Facilitator: WPC member Margo Reign*

10:10 a.m. | Classroom 5

Discover a path on how to receive the freedom that comes with forgiving – even if the person needing forgiveness is ourselves. Whether or not you attended the first or second session, you are welcome to participate in Session 3!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29



Blessed be the Tie that Binds?

*Presenter:
Heath W. Carter, Ph.D.*

10:10 a.m. | Sanctuary

*Watch the livestream
at: wpc.org/watch*

We are living through a season of historic political polarization, one in which, with seemingly each passing day, more and more Americans view their neighbors as enemies. During this challenging season for church and nation alike, what can we learn from the witness of those who have gone before? What role might Presbyterian and other mainline Protestant churches play on the road ahead?

Dr. Heath W. Carter is an associate professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he teaches and writes about the intersection of Christianity and American public life.

ONGOING/WEEKLY

Online Bible Studies

Midweek Manna Bible Study

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitator: The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson

Contact: sniesenthompson@wpc.org

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays | 6–7 p.m. | Zoom

Facilitators: Randy Williamson

and Mary Anne Peters

Contact: randywilliamson1@comcast.net

Peace and Justice Thursday Evening Education Event

Creating Spaces to

Transform Historical Harms

October 19 | 7 p.m. | Zoom

bit.ly/peace-justice-zoom

With Sarah Green, Pacem in

Terris Co-Director

Hosted by our Peace & Justice Work Group.

zoom.us/join | Meeting ID: 860 2752 1655

For full descriptions of our programs and more adult education and small group opportunities, visit WPC.ORG/ADULTS or check our events calendar at WPC.ORG/EVENTS. Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

~ SONG RECITAL ~

Sunday, October 22 | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary



The extraordinary and talented section leaders/soloists of the Westminster Choir will present a song recital on Sunday, October 22, at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Rebecca Hughes, soprano; Margaret Mezzacappa, mezzo soprano; Teddy Austin, tenor; and Jerry Polman, baritone, will perform Spirituals and works by Brahms, Schubert, and Vaughn Williams. Joining them will be Delaware Symphony Orchestra's Executive Director J.C. Barker, clarinet; DSO Principal Viola, Elias Goldstein; Ted Barr, piano; and Tony Thurman, organ.

Please join us in person or livestream on [YouTube!](#)

A free-will donation is requested.

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION SERIES

Sunday, October 22 | 10:10 a.m. | Ruth Christie Room

(access through Rodney Chapel or the Ruth Christie Hallway)

Have you been considering membership at Westminster? Please join us to learn more about Westminster, discover ways to connect with others in the congregation, and explore ways to serve within and beyond our community. For those who wish to join the Westminster congregation, there will be an opportunity at the end of the second session. Our pastors and members of the church will share facets of Westminster.

*Questions? Contact the
Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson
at sniesenthompson@wpc.org.*



2023 Distinguished Speaker

THE REV. DR. THOMAS G. LONG

Christian Funerals: What They Mean and How They Got into Trouble

Sunday, November 5, 2023 | 10:10 a.m. | Sanctuary



In this presentation, we will take a brief look at how the Christian funeral service developed historically, what this service means in terms of our faith, and how it has come under stress in recent decades.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Long is an ordained Presbyterian minister who spent most of his career teaching homiletics (preaching) at Candler School of Theology at Emory University and Princeton Seminary. In 1996, Tom was named one of the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world by Baylor University, along with the likes of Fred Craddock, Billy Graham, James Forbes, Barbara Brown Taylor, and William Willimon. In 2018, Baylor came out with a new list of the 12 most effective preachers and Tom was one of only four from the original list to make the list again.

Dr. Long will also preach during the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. worship services on November 5.

PASTORAL STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Jill Getty, Pastoral Care Assistant

MUSIC STAFF

Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES STAFF

Kathleen Kennan, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry
Sydney Walker, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Stephanie Burris-White, Director of Preschool Ministries
Beatrice Taylor, Nursery

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Tanner Freeman (lead videographer), Rich Albert, Drew Holmes,
Chip Pfleegor, Roger Reinicker, Aaron Wemhoff, and Sophia Wolff

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

Colleen Falasco

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Paul Crothamel

Visit wpc.org/staff-leadership for a full listing of Westminster's staff and leadership.

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil-some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

THANKSGIVING

mur - mur stilled:
all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
cho - sen band:
take your part:

The image shows a musical score for a Thanksgiving song. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written between the staves. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The bass line is composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The song ends with a double bar line.

Together We Serve

767

Capo 3: (G) B \flat (D) F (Em) Gm (Bm7) Dm7



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) E \flat (G) B \flat (Am7) Cm7 (Dsus) (D) Fsus F



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) B \flat (D) F (C) E \flat (Bm) Dm



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) B \flat (C) E \flat (G) B \flat (Am) Cm (D7) F7 (G) B \flat




ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat




1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new - born crea - tures
2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may
3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,

(D) F (Bm) Dm




of your womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

(G) B \flat (D) F (A) C



Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

(Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (A) C (D) F



spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

(Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (D) F



send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.