Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 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 – 10:45 a.m.  
Holy Toast Café in Walton Community Hall  
Enjoy free coffee, tea, and fellowship. Breakfast items are available for one dollar.

10:10 – 11:00 a.m.  
Children and Youth Programming  
• Nursery Care: Age 4 and under in Preschool Suite D  
• Kids Zone Sunday School: Kindergarten–Grade 5 in Classroom 1  
• Middle School Zone: Grades 6–8 in Classroom 3  
• High School: Grades 9–12  
  o Confirmation Class in Classroom 7  
  o Small Groups in the Library (for already confirmed youth)

Membership Exploration Series in Ruth Christie Room  
(see announcement on page 5)

Adult Education classes (see page 6)

11:15 – 12:00 p.m.  
Living Mosaics worship in Rodney Chapel

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Song Recital in the Sanctuary (see announcement on page 7)

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.

The Music: Today’s anthem is Donna Butler’s In This Place, which was commissioned by Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, Kansas. Butler, an Oklahoma native, is an accomplished pianist, soloist, and composer of more than 100 works in print today. Members of the Westminster Choir and Westminster Handbell Choir are good stewards of their musical talents. If you have musical talent, please join us! We have one (1) position open in the handbell choir and welcome all voice types—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass—in the choir loft. For more information or to participate, email TonyThurman@wpc.org or speak with him after the postlude.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the Glory of God by Heather Brooks in loving memory of her mother Nancy Dobsch and stepmother Sandi Dobsch. 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.

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
Kathleen Kennan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE
With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord
Mary Kay Beall
arr. John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP
The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

We will love the Lord our God with all our heart,
with all our soul and with all our might.

Seek to be faithful in all things, great and small
and recognize God’s ownership of all you possess.

We will strive to be generous with all that we have.

*HYMN NO. 612
We Praise You, O God
KREMSER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
God of creation,
we give you thanks for this October day with all its color and crispness,
and for the countless gifts you have showered upon us.

At this very moment, we stop to focus on how grateful we are
for your power that sustains the earth and brings new life,
for your strength that gives us courage when life is threatening,
for the wisdom you shine upon our path
for the guidance you weave into our minds and souls,
for your love that brings us joy and binds us together,
and for your peace that washes away our fear and infuses us with hope.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN
(See “Today at Westminster” on page 2 for more information.)
Sudie Niesen Thompson

ANTHEM
In This Place
Donna Butler
Ted W. Barr, piano

In this place we honor all the spirits
who dreamed this sacred space,
reaching out and reaching in
to share the gift of faith.

Ev’ry soul is welcome in this covenant of grace.
Beloved child of God, join our table, take your place.

It was only brick and stone
when I first walked through the door,
but something stirred my spirit here
and now it’s so much more.

Our hearts and doors stand open,
surely God is in this place.

May the light of loving kindness shine
from each and ev’ry face in this place.
In this place we gather to soar on hope and awe.

With your wisdom, clear our vision,
help us face our flaws.

Equip us with a growing understanding of your grace.
Then, send us out to those in need of your embrace.

What is the future?
What are we called to do?

We’re filled with possibility because we follow you.

—Kathy Burdette
Scripture Lesson  
Luke 19:1-10  
New Testament, page 71

Sermon  
Gregory Knox Jones

Hymn No. 707  
_Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord_ (v. 1)  
HALL

Testimony of Jerry Spilecki

Hymn No. 707  
_Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord_ (v. 2)  
HALL

Testimony of Jessica Fischer

Hymn No. 707  
_Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord_ (v. 3)  
HALL

Testimony of Dan Weintraub

Hymn No. 707  
_Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord_ (v. 4)  
HALL

Offering

Offertory  
_Sing Praise_  
arr. Helvey/Governor

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. 712_  
_As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought_  
FOREST GREEN

_Benediction_

Postlude  
_Westminster Carillon_  
Carson Cooman
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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.

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION SERIES

Today | 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.

Sunday, October 22, 2023 – Page 5
**ADULT EDUCATION**

**TODAY, 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  

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!

**NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**Blessed be the Tie that Binds?**  
*Presenter: Heath W. Carter, Ph.D.*

10:10 a.m. | Sanctuary  
*Watch live 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**  
*YWCA Delaware Programs – How You Can Make a Difference!*  
*October 26 | 7 p.m. | Zoom*  
*With Becca Cotto, Director of Racial and Social Justice and Advocacy*  
*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](http://WPC.ORG/ADULTS) or check our events calendar at [WPC.ORG/EVENTS](http://WPC.ORG/EVENTS). Select adult education programs are available as a livestream/recording on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com).
Among Friends: A SONG RECITAL

Today | 3 p.m. | Sanctuary

The extraordinary and talented section leaders/soloists of the Westminster Choir will present a song recital today 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; and Ted Barr and Tony Thurman, piano.

Please join us in person or livestream on YouTube!
A free-will donation is requested.

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 at both 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
Rebecca Hughes; Margaret Mezzacappa; Teddy Austin; Jerry Polman, Section Leaders
Emily Haas, Director of Music for Children and Youth
Cole Walker, Choral Assistant for Children and Youth

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

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Dan Weintraub and Jenn Barrington

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

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SESSION
Taryn Albert, Adam Blackford, Michelle Butler, Clark Collins, Bob Cox, Sara Dubberly, Rob Gooderham,
Laura Holmes, Dick Jolly, Carla Krupanski, KC Morrison, Dave McBride,
Susan McPheeters, Jan Patrick, Chip Pfleegor, Todd Piercy, Carrie Saathoff, Laura Scanlan,
Kent Smith, Janet Steinwedel, Karissa Thacker, Gill Timon, Dan Weintraub

BOARD OF DEACONS
Liz Bacon, Lisa Bianchi, Jennifer Blackford, Heather Brooks, Russ Butler, Kyle Carrick,
Beatty Chadwick, Diane Chandler, Jack Coleman, Joe Daley, Tammy Daley, Kendra Gallagher,
Sara Gavenonis, Jamie Hickey, Drew Holmes, Barbara Jobe, Sheran Kegerise, Elaine Lunardi, Blair McConnel,
Sarah Mentzer, Robert Moore, Gathoni Murugi-Jenkins, Dan McAllister, Debbie McCullough, Lynne Perkins,
Emily Pfaff, Paula Piercy, Rachel Psaros, Patti Ridout, Robin Rosser, Evie Saathoff, Carol Tatnall,
Lois Underhill, Ginger Ward, Sandie Reinicker, Sue Weissinger, Sandra Wermus, Kathy Wissner

TRUSTEES
Rich Albert, Tom Brooks, Nancy Fleming, John Gavenonis, Lou Hering,
Bobbe Hoy, Brock Jobe, Sue Linderman, Robert Love, Tom Preston, Kris Qualls, Stan Stevenson

PARTNERS IN WORLDWIDE MINISTRY
DR Congo – PC(USA) Mission Co-workers: Jeff and Christi Boyd, Larry and Inge Streshley;
   Kananga Presbytery and Members of Kamulumba-Ditalala Parish
Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon – PC(USA) Mission Co-worker the Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker
   Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches,
   Israel/Palestine – Peace Drums Steel Band
Guatemala - CEDEPCA, AJPU, the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development,
   PC(USA) Mission Co-workers Betsey and Eric Moe
We Praise You, O God

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
   in grateful devotion our tribute we bring,
   we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing,
   and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
   through trial and tempest our guide you have been,
   and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

3. With voices united our praises we offer
   gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
   To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.
Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

1. Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;
   give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
   teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
   grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

2. Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.

3. Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

4. Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

This hymn began with the tune, which the composer hummed to the author with a request for a text that would challenge the hearts and minds of young people. The text of the first three stanzas was written that day, and the fourth stanza later emerged at a youth conference.

TEXT: William H. Foulkes, stanzas 1–3, 1918, stanzas 4, c. 1920
MUSIC: Calvin Weiss Laufer, 1918

HALF
10.10.10.10
As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought  712

1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,
3 In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,

to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
to make our life an offering that all may truly live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.

so we today our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,

of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

This text by a Presbyterian pastor in California expresses the conviction that being a good steward is an essential part of the Christian life, for self-giving is God's own nature. The tune is named for the village in Surrey where the arranger collected this tune in 1903.

TEXT: Frank von Christerson, 1960, alt.
MUSIC: English folk melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906