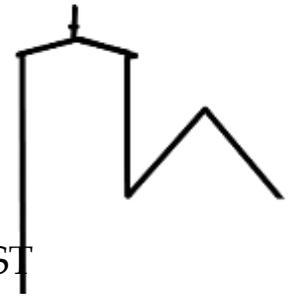


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

13 September 2020

Ten O'clock

GOD OF MERCY, grant that the Word you speak this day may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit to your honor and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

From the Book of Common Worship, PC (USA)

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments and I will pray the Father, and he will send you another Comforter, that ye may abide with him forever, even the Spirit of Truth.

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *Sing praise to God, who lifts and carries us through the darkness with hope and light.*

All: **Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!**

One: *When turbulence within and without seem to threaten us, we cry out.*

All: **God leads us into ways of peace.**

One: *Lord of hope and life, be with us today.*

All: **God of mercy and peace, lead our lives.**

*THE HYMN 494

Out of Deep Unordered Water

Rustington

1. Out of deep, unordered water
God created light and land
World of bird and beast and, later
In God's image, woman, man.
There is water in the fountain
Bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver
There is water in the font.

2. Water on the human forehead,
Birthmark of the love of God
Is the sign of death and rising;
Through the seas there runs a road.
There is water in the fountain
Bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver
There is water in the font.

3. Standing round the font reminds us, Of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge: God has been this way before.
There is water in the fountain Bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver, There is water in the font.

Text: Fred Kaan, 1965

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Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1897

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*praying together*)

LORD, your grace and mercy are ever-present in our lives, your forgiveness is boundless in mercy when we fail to live in Christ-like ways. And yet, we are quick to carry a grudge – quick to find fault, quick to assign blame, quick to harden our hearts toward others. Set us apart, loving God, to extend and model the grace you have shown us by offering grace to others.

***TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

***KYRIE**

Tom Clark-Jones

Lord have mer - cy up - on us. Christ have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord have mer - cy up - on us.

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***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Tom Clark-Jones

Glo - ry be to the Fa - - ther,
and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and ev - er shall be. world with - out
end. A - men. A - - - - men.

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HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 14:19-31

p. 61, *NRSV*

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged^[a] their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

THE CANTICLE

Song of Moses

Azmon

1. The Lord I sing, uplifted, high
And powerful to save;
He hurled the rider and his horse
Beneath the Red Sea's wave.

2. My strength, my refuge, Savior, Lord,
The God whom I acclaim,
A warrior strong, my people's God
And Yahweh is his Name.

3. What gods can be compared with you
In holiness and dread?
When you stretch forth your mighty arm
Your enemies fall dead.

4. Yet with your constant love you led
The people you redeemed
And brought them safely to the land
Of which our fathers dreamed.

Text: from: *A New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber
© 1986, The Church Hymnal Corp., New York, (used and reprinted with permission)
Music: Carl Gotthelf Glässer, 1828

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3 Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6 Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him,

'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.
33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'
34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his
entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do
not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 347

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Detroit

1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But you alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.

2. How can your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let
Old bitterness depart?

3. In blazing light your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us,
How great our debt to you!

4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
And bid resentment cease.
Then, bound to all in bonds of love,
Our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Raymond E. Herklots, 1969

Tune: Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, 1820

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *Romans 8*

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Hide Not Thou Thy Face

Richard Farrant

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure; for we confess our sins unto thee, and hide not our unrighteousness. For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins.

SEALING THE WORD

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

(... *In your mercy ... Lord hear our prayer*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER [*as the choir sings the prayer in Latin, then we all pray in English*]

PATER NOSTER

Igor Stravinsky

PATER NOSTER qui es in coelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum: adveniat regnum tuum: fiat voluntas tua, sicut in coelo et in terra: panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie: et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris: et ne nos inducas in tentationem: sed libera nos a malo. Amen.

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.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

1. Love divine, all loves excelling
Joy of heaven to earth come down
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art
Visit us with thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

3. Finish, then thy new creation: Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747
Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
The Westminster Quartet
Melissa Blain, soprano; Kate Kortemeier, alto
J. Douglas McQueen, tenor; David Kortemeier, baritone
Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*
Steve Sager, *Production Assistant*

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA and this webcast of the Sunday morning worship of the congregation coming to you via the Internet during this time. We look forward to the day we will again be able to worship together, but until then, we continue to worship as a congregation. Although separated physically, we remain together in spirit. May God bless you as you worship along with us today as we celebrate the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.

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IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS SERVICE, at 11:00 a.m. CDT on September 13, 2020, we will have a Zoom Coffee Hour. Come join us for fellowship together following the service. Both members and visitors to the site are welcome to join us. This is an important part of the service for all Westminster members and friends. Keeping our Christian fellowship alive at this time is most important. If you are asked for a password to the Zoom fellowship, it is "fellowship".

ALMIGHTY GOD, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

... A Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



SUNDAY,
13 SEPTEMBER 2020

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WESTMINSTER CHURCH

A Presbyterian Church, USA
in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + Peoria Illinois 61606
www.westminsterpeoria.org