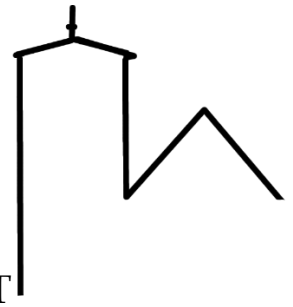


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11 July 2021

Ten O'clock

ETERNAL GOD, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendor of creation, and in the beauty of human life. Touched by your hand, our world is holy. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share our blessings with our sisters and brothers, and to experience the joy of life in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

... from the Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA)

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Nun bitten wir

Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *Come, let us come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.*

All: **We have come to worship our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers, and all that dwells within.**

One: *The Lord of the Dance beckons us to join in this time of celebration and joy...*

All: **That we might know that we are gathered in God's holy place.**

One: *We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.*

All: **We seek to know God's faithfulness and wisdom.**

One: *Let us enter God's rhythm of life and follow in the ways of the Word.*

All: **God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!**

One: *Let us enter God's rhythm of life and follow in the ways of the Word.*

All: **God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!**

***THE HYMN 486**

When the Morning Stars Together

Weisse Flaggen

**1. When the morning stars together
Their creator's glory sang
And the angel hosts all shouted
Till with joy the heavens rang,
Then your wisdom and your greatness
Their exultant music told,
All the beauty and the splendor
Which your mighty works unfold.**

**2. When in synagogue and temple
Voices raised the psalmists' songs,
Offering the adoration
Which alone to you belongs,
When the singers and the cymbals
With the trumpet made accord,
Glory filled the house of worship,
And all knew your presence, Lord.**

3. Voice and instrument in union
 Through the ages spoke your praise.
 Plainsong, tuneful hymns and anthems
 Told your faithful, gracious ways.
 Choir and orchestra and organ
 Each a sacred offering brought
 While, inspired by your own spirit
 Poet and composer wrought.

4. Lord we bring our gift of music,
 Touch our lips and fire our hearts.
 Teach our minds and train our senses
 Fit us for these sacred arts.
 Then with skill and consecration
 We would serve you, Lord, and give
 All our powers to glorify you,
 And in serving, fully live.

Text: Alert F. Bayly, 1969

Music: from *Tochter Sion*, Cologne, 1741

***CALL TO CONFESSIONS**

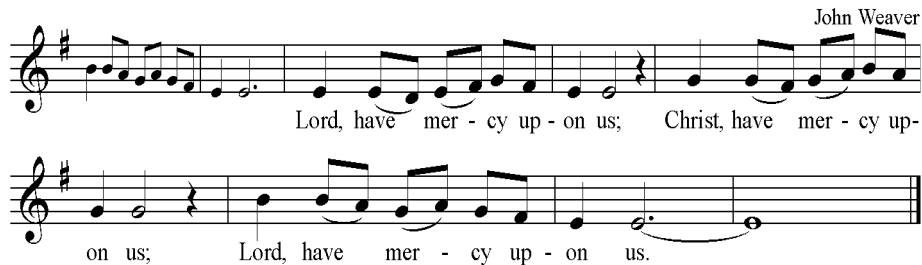
***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*praying together*)

HOLY GOD, we confess that too often we have not been open to the rhythms of life you offer to us. We let ourselves be put off your pace and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs. Too often the melodies of the world confuse us. We have led ourselves and others to paths that are not according to your loving pace and direction. Help us pay attention with all of our senses. Make our dancing faithful; help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead. Pull us back into your rhythms. Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet that we might know and share your blessings.

***TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

***KYRIE**

John Weaver



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

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI**

John Weaver



Glo - ry 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 will be for - ev - er.
 A - men. A - - - men. A - - - men.

John Weaver, 1978

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: II Samuel 6:1-5; 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ² David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³ They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴ with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵ David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

¹² It was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³ and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴ David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

¹⁶ As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. ¹⁸ When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, ¹⁹ and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

THE PSALTER:

Psalm 24

Caithness

1. The earth and all that dwell there-in,
With all its wealth untold,
Belongs to God who founded it
Upon the seas of old.

2. O who shall stand before the Lord
On Zion's holy hill?
The clean of hand, the pure of heart,
The just who do God's will.

3. O everlasting doors, give way,
Lift up your heads, O gates!
For now, behold, to enter in
The King of glory waits,

4. Who is this glorious King that comes
To sit upon the throne?
The Lord of Hosts, that one is King
Of glory, God alone.

Text: The Psalter, 1912
Tune: The Scottish Psalter, 1635

EPISTLE: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' ¹ name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What

should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

SERMON

Dances: Sacred and Profane

Thomas Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 302

I Danced in the Morning

Simple Gifts

I danced in the morning when the world was begun
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had my birth, *(Refrain)*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee
But they would not dance and they would not follow Me
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
They came with Me and the dance went on. *(Refrain)*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
The holy people said it was a shame
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And left Me there on a cross to die. *(Refrain)*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black:
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back,
They buried My body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance and I still go on. *(Refrain)*

They cut Me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me:
I am the Lord of the Dance said He. *(Refrain)*

*(Refrain) Dance, then wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance said He
And I'll led you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.*

Text: Sydney Carter, 1963
Music: American Shaker Hymn

***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 peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

The Lord's Prayer
Melissa Blain, soprano

Michael Head

SEALING THE WORD

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER *[praying together]*

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**

Once To Every Man and Nation

Geneva

1. Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
Off'ring each the bloom or blight;
And the choice goes by forever
'Twixt that darkness and that light.

2. Then to side with truth is noble,
When we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit
And 'tis prosp'rous to be just;
Then it is the brave one chooses
While the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied.

3. By the light of burning martyrs
Jesus' bleeding feet I track;
Toiling up new Calvaries ever
With the cross that turns not back;
New occasions teach new duties,
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of truth.

4. Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet 'tis truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow
Keeping watch above his own.

Text: James Russell Lowell, 1845
Music: George Henry Day, 1940

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

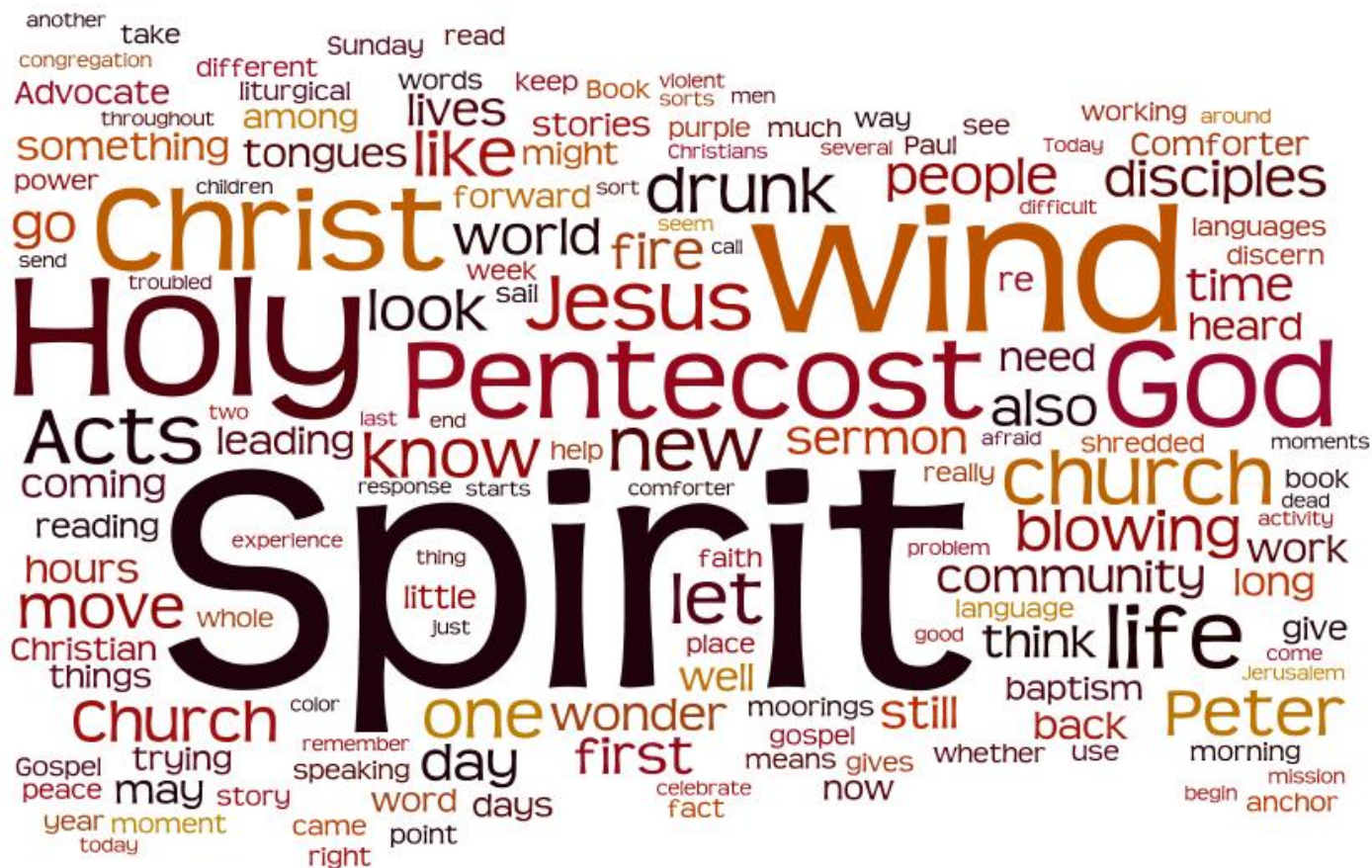
The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Melissa Blain, *soprano soloist*
Elder Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA. We are pleased to be worshipping once again as a congregation here on Moss Avenue on this Seventh Sunday of Pentecost. We trust that this service will bring blessing and hope. We welcome those worshipping with us via the World Wide Web where we are live-streaming this service. Our thanks to Elder Larry Hicks who has made the live-streaming possible through his expertise in web design. If you miss the service at ten o'clock on Sunday morning, the recording of the worship will appear for the next several weeks on the WPC You Tube Channel. If you would like to hear the sermon again, this is a perfect way to immerse yourself in the Word for the day.

THE SERVICE MUSIC usage and rights to live-stream this service are given through our license A-726060 issued by OneLicense.net (Chicago, Illinois).

TITHES AND OFFERINGS are not being received through the passing of the plate at this time, but the church still needs your faithful support to continue its ministry in our community and our world, thus, there are offering plates in the Narthex as you leave the church this morning. If it is more convenient, you can send your pledge to the church office, or use the website to make your donation on line. Thank you for your faithfulness during this most difficult time.

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11 JULY 2021

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA

A Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + + + Peoria, Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org