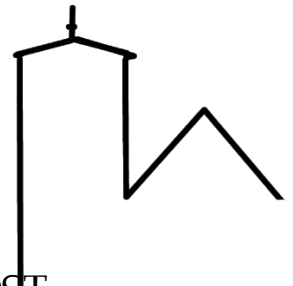


# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue  
Peoria, Illinois 61606



## THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

22 August 2021

Ten O'clock

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**ALMIGHTY GOD, you have taught us that all our deeds without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.** ... from the Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA)

### GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

**THE PREPARATION**

**Pastorale**

*César Franck*

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Rev. Clark-Jones**

**One:** *In this hour, may we remember others.*

**All:** **May we get lost in God's love.**

**One:** *May we set aside petty differences*

**All:** **And lift up what is honorable.**

**One:** *In this hour, may we pursue God's way.*

**All:** **Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.**

**One:** *In this hour, may we practice love,*

**All:** **that it may become who we are at every other hour of the week.**

**\*THE HYMN 473**

**For the Beauty of the Earth**

*Dix*

**1. For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies  
For the love which from our birth,  
Over and around us lies. Refrain**

**2. For the joy of ear and eye,  
For the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight. Refrain**

*Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.*

**3. For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild. Refrain**

**4. For thy church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love. Refrain**

**Text: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, 1864  
Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**


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

**SPIRIT OF GOD, we confess that we put on airs more often than we put on the armor of God. We are guilty of girding ourselves with lies instead of the truth. We try to protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition, and self-reliance instead of righteousness, faith, and your gift of salvation. Our footsteps do not follow your path of peace. And we are quick to use your Word to attack one another, instead of striking out against the sins we personally commit. Forgive us, Holy God. Gift us with the wisdom and strength to change our ways, so that we may live as your faithful ambassadors of the Good News.**

**\*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: I Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43**

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion.

<sup>6</sup> Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

<sup>10</sup> And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. <sup>23</sup> He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, <sup>24</sup> the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. <sup>25</sup> Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' <sup>26</sup> Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

<sup>27</sup> "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! <sup>28</sup> Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; <sup>29</sup> that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. <sup>30</sup> Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

<sup>41</sup> "Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name <sup>42</sup> — for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm — when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, <sup>43</sup> then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

**THE PSALTER:****Psalm 84***St. Peter*

1. How dear your dwelling-place to me  
O Lord of hosts, my king;  
My soul desires the courts of God  
Whose praise my heart will sing.

2. The sparrow now has found a house,  
The swallow has a nest,  
Where she may lay her young, O Lord,  
And by your altar rest.

3. Happy are those who dwell with you  
And always sing your praise;  
Happy the ones you strengthen, Lord,  
With hearts set on your ways.

4. In lonely valleys they will find  
A place of pools and springs,  
And as they climb to Zion's heights  
They see the King of kings.

Text: *A New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber  
© 1986, The Church Hymnal Corp., New York, (used and reprinted with permission)  
Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836

**EPISTLE: Ephesians 6:10-20**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> With all of these take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of

Man ascending to where he was before? 63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

SERMON

The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN 454

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

*Liebster Jesu*

1. Blessed Jesus, at your word  
We are gathered all to hear you;  
Let our hearts and souls be stirred  
Now to seek and love and fear you;  
By your teachings true and holy,  
Drawn from earth to love you solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense and sight  
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,  
Till your Spirit breaks our night  
With the beams of truth unclouded;  
You alone to God can win us,  
You must work all good within us.

3. Glorious Lord, Yourself impart!  
Light of light, from God proceeding.  
Open now our ears and heart,  
Help us by your Spirit's pleading;  
Hear the cry that we are raising:  
Hear, and bless our prayers and praising.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663  
Music: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1664

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from* Philippians 2

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## THE GIFT OF MUSIC

## 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 447

**Lead On, O King Eternal**

*Lancashire*

1. **Lead on, O King eternal,  
The day of march has come;  
Henceforth in fields of conquest  
Thy tents shall be our home:  
Through days of preparation  
Thy grace has made us strong,  
And now, O King eternal,  
We lift our battle song.**

2. **Lead on, O king eternal  
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper  
The sweet amen of peace;  
For not with swords' loud clashing,  
Nor roll of stirring drums;  
With deeds of love and mercy  
The heavenly kingdom comes.**

3. **Lead on, O King eternal,  
We follow, not with fears;  
For gladness breaks like morning  
Wher-e'er thy face appears;  
Thy cross is lifted o'er us,  
We journey in its light"  
The crown awaits the conquest;  
Lead on, O God of might!**

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1888  
Music: Henry Thomas Smart, 1835

## \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor of Westminster Church***

**Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster***

**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 Thirteenth Sunday after 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).

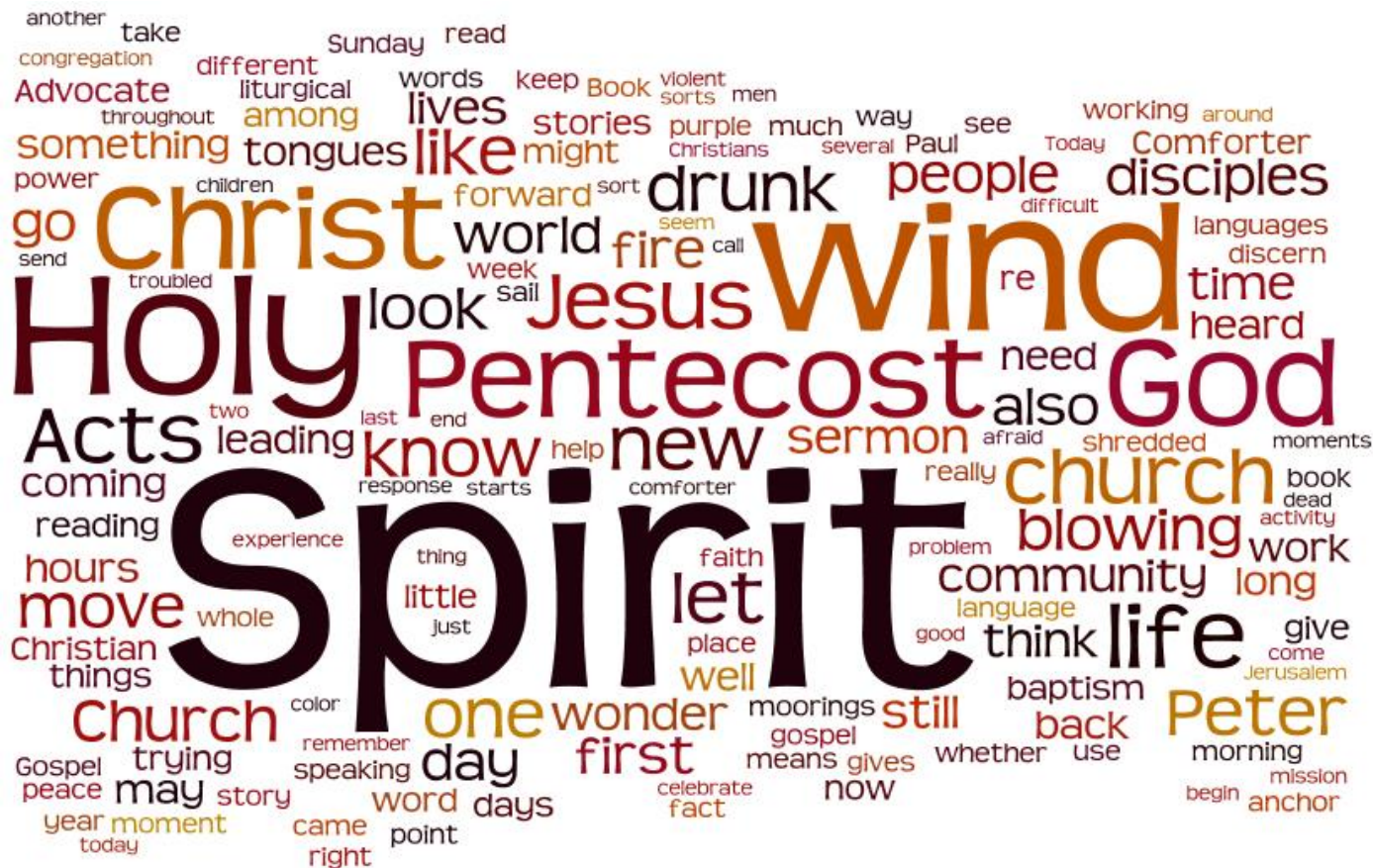
**TITHES AND OFFERINGS** are not being received through the passing of the plate at this time, but the church still needs your faithful support to continue its ministry in our community and our world, thus, there are offering plates in the Narthex as you leave the church this morning. If it is more convenient, 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.

**THE GRETCHEN R. IBEN ARTS SERIES** kicks off the 2021-2022 season with a performance by the Westminster Jazz Ensemble led by David Hoffman. They will present an offering of jazz standards, as well as original tunes by David. The date: Sunday, September 19 at four in the afternoon. Get the word out that the Iben Series is alive and well, and preparing for a bright, new season. Concerts are open to the public without charge ... a free-will offering will be received at the door as you exit. All persons coming to the event are asked to bring their masks, or use one provided at the door. We wish to enjoy the fellowship and inspiration of a full church listening to great music ... but we want to do so as safely as possible. Your cooperation is requested for this minor inconvenience undertaken for our long-term well being.

In October, the Iben Series turns to serious music for the pipe organ with a concert of the music of César Franck played by Thomas Clark-Jones. This is some of the greatest music written for the King of Instruments, and you will want to set aside Friday evening, October 15 at 7:30. Brochures for the fall portion of the Iben Series are available in the Narthex. Pick one up and share it with a friend.

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OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

22 AUGUST 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](http://www.westminsterpeoria.org)



*" Almighty God,  
who hast given us grace at this time  
with one accord  
to make our common supplication unto thee,  
and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son  
that when two or three are gathered together in his Name  
thou wilt be in the midst of them:  
Fulfill now, O Lord,  
the desires and petitions of thy servants  
as may be best for us;  
granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth,  
and in the world to come life everlasting.  
Amen."*

*... St. John Chrysostom,  
Bishop of Constantinople, 407 AD*

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## Westminster Church

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In the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

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