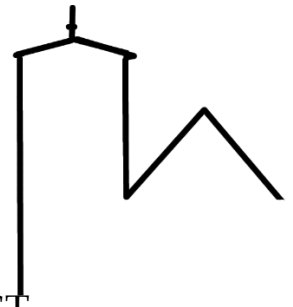


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

12 September 2021

Ten O'clock

ALMIGHTY GOD, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; 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

Darius Milhaud

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *We gather to give thanks for all the blessings and hope of life.*

All: **We praise God; we rejoice and give thanks.**

One: *We join our voices in praise and thanksgiving.*

All: **In all things, may God be glorified!**

***THE HYMN 327**

O Word of God Incarnate

Munich

**1. O Word of God incarnate,
O wisdom from on high,
O truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise you for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.**

**2. The church from you, dear Savior,
Received this gift divine,
And still that light is lifted
On all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
That, all life's voyage through,
Amid the rocks and quicksands,
Still guides, O Christ, to you.**

3. O make your church, dear Savior,
 A lamp of purest gold
 To bear before the nations
 Your true light, as of old;
 O teach your wandering pilgrims
 By this our path to trace,
 Till, clouds and storms thus ended,
 We see you face to face.

Text: William Walsham How, 1867

Music: Nuvermehrtes Meiningsches Gesangbuch, 1693

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

MERCIFUL GOD, we confess that we have not followed Your way. We protect what is dear to us and neglect what is dear to you. We preserve our own way of life and profit at the expense of others. Forgive us, God of grace. Show us the error of our ways, and guide us back to Your path of righteousness, justice, and peace.

***TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

***KYRIE**

John Weaver

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

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
²¹ At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
²² "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
²³ Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
²⁴ Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
²⁵ and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
²⁷ when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
²⁹ Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
³⁰ would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
³² For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
³³ but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

THE PSALTER:

Psalm 19

Caithness

1. The heavens above declare God's praise
The work God's hands have made;
Day after day the tale is told,
And night by night displayed.

2. There is no utterance or speech
No voice has ever heard,
Yet to all nations comes the sound,
To every place their word.

3. Forth like a bridegroom comes the sun
From its appointed place,
And like a hero runs its course,
Rejoicing in the race.

4. It runs from east to farthest west
To make its course complete,
And nothing in the world beneath
Escapes its scorching heat.

Text: Christopher L. Webber, 1986
Music: The Scottish Psalter, 1635

EPISTLE: James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters,^[a] for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature,^[b] and is itself set on fire by hell.^[c] ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters,^[d] this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters,^[e] yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow

me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

SERMON

The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 426

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Canonbury

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of thy tone;
As thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children lost and lone.

2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

3. O teach me Lord, that I may teach
The precious things thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

4. O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

5. O use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy Joy, Thy glory share.

Text: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872
Music: Robert Schumann, 1839

*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 heavens resound with God's glory eternal, all nature echoes God's holy name! The earth and seas, with power supernal, cry out; O hear the voice divine! Who made the stars in heaven, so glorious? Who set the sun on her fiery round? To conquer night like a hero victorious? O praise the Lord with joyful sound! O praise the Lord with joyful sound! O hear and see all the works of creation, the Lord is God, forever the same! Your children, we, in love and devotion, come now to hear the word divine. Creation sings your myriad blessings, We join the chorus, our voices raised! O God of love and all wisdom and mercy, Receive our prayer, our song of praise! Receive our prayer and song of praise!

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 73

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

Geneva

**1. Swiftly pass the clouds of glory
Heaven's voice; the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish,
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James and John fall silent,
Turning from the summit's rise
Downward toward the shadowed valley
Where their Lord has fixed his eyes..**

**2. Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
They shall gain and keep its truth,
Not by building on the mountain
Any shrine or sacred booth,
But by following the Savior
Through the valley to the cross
And by testing faith's resilience
Through betrayal, pain and loss.**

**3. Lord transfigure our perception With the purest light that shines,
And recast our life's intentions To the shape of your designs.
Till we seek no other glory Than what lies past Calvary's hill
And our living and our dying, And our rising by your will.**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you, Deep peace of the flowing air to you, Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you, Moon and stars pour their healing light on you, Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the Light of the World to you, Deep peace of Christ to you.

***POSTLUDE**

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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

Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*

The Westminster Choir

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 Sixteenth 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).

THE GRETCHEN R. IBEN ARTS SERIES kicks off the 2021-2022 season next Sunday, September 19, with a performance by the Westminster Jazz Ensemble led by David Hoffman. They will present a program of jazz standards, as well as some 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. The audience will be limited to 80 persons, so come early for your seat.

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

*"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*

TODAY WE WELCOME back to the Chancel our Westminster Choir. The choir last sang in this sanctuary on the third Sunday of March in 2019. In the mean time we have had soloists to provide the music and later, for the 2020-2021 season, the Westminster Quartet provided choral music to enrich our services. HOWEVER, there is no substitute for the full choir and the wonderful sounds they can make for the adornment of our worship. Not everyone who is a member of the choir is ready to return to the loft, but we go with those who are anxious to sing again. Please take a moment to thank them for their service to our worship. The Choir will be wearing masks, at least for a while, so as to insure a safe, enjoyable experience. Our thanks to all who are singing today.

Westminster Church

A Presbyterian Church, USA

In the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + Peoria, Illinois 61606