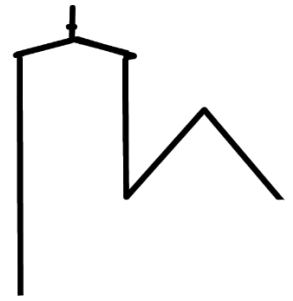


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

20 March 2022

Ten O'clock

MERCIFUL GOD, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

... Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church, USA)

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Partitas on "O Sacred Head"

Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

One: *Everyone who thirsts for righteousness, everyone who is hungry for justice,*

All: **Come and be fed by the Spirit!**

One: *God has made with us an everlasting covenant,*

All: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: *Come, worship God, who leads us into life;*

All: **Come, follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

***THE HYMN**

Bring Many Names

Westchase

**1. Bring many names, beautiful and good
Celebrate, in parable and story
Holiness in glory, living loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!**

**2. Strong mother God, working night and day
Planning all the wonders of Creation,
Setting each equation, genius at play,
Hail and Hosanna! Strong mother God!**

**3. Warm father God, hugging every child,
Feeling all the strains of human living
Caring and forgiving, till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna! Warm father God!**

**4. Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair,
Hail and Hosanna! Old, aching God!**

5. Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna! Young, growing God!

6. Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna! Great, living God!

Text: Brian Wren, 1989
Music: Carlton R. Young, 1989

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

HOLY GOD, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to You. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Our ways are not Your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to Your thoughts. Forgive us when we fall short of Your claim upon our lives, Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who You intend us to be.

***TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

***KYRIE**



***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***LENTEN RESPONSE** (*singing together*)

Westminster Abbey

To this temple where we call thee, Come O Lord of Hosts today,
With thy wonted loving kindness, Hear thy servants as they pray,
And thy fullest benediction, Shed within these walls away.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God.

***PSALTER**

Psalm 63

St. Bride

**1. God, You are my God:
 I seek You eagerly;
 My soul and body thirst for You
 In barren lands and dry.**

**2. Therefore I gazed on You
 Within Your holy place,
 That I might look upon Your power,
 The glory of Your face.**

**3. Your love is more than life;
 My lips shall give You praise;
 I lift my hands up in Your name
 And bless You all my days.**

**4. My soul is well content,
 My mouth shall give You praise;
 When I remember You at night
 And ponder all Your ways.**

Text: Christopher L. Webber, 1986
 Music: Samuel Howard, 1762

EPISTLE: I Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN**

All My Hope on God Is Founded

Michael

1. All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

2. God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendor, light and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

3. Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

4. Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall

Text: Joachim Neander, 1690
Music: Herbert Howells, 1930

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*affirming together*)

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 **Like As the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks**

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks : so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God : when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night : while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

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**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea,
There's a kindness in God's justice
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

2. For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word:
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

Text: Frederick William Faber, 1854

Music: Julius Rontgen, 1901

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

May Christ Support Us

Norman Dello Joio

May Christ support us all the day long, 'til the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the weary world is hushed, and the fever of life is o'er, and our work is done. Then in his mercy may he grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest ... and peace at the last. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

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A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: This Lenten Season we are using the devotional published by "The Presbyterian Outlook" entitled, "Making the Road" Walking Through Lent" This is a series of daily Bible readings and devotions on the Scriptures to help enrich your walk through the penitential season of Lent. It's still not too late to catch up with the daily readings. These booklets are available on the table in the Narthex as you leave. Join us in this walk together through the Lenten season and culminating in the joyous celebration of Easter!

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
The Choir of Westminster Church
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Elder Larry Hicks, *Video Production*

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

20 MARCH 2022

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA
A Presbyterian Church, USA in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + + + Peoria, Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org



**Christ of St. John of the Cross (1951)
Salvador Dali (1904 - 1989)**

This monumental painting of the Surrealist, Salvador Dali stands more than eight feet tall by four feet wide. From the Cross, Jesus looks down on the world he came to save. It is a great statement of faith from a great artist. Note, there are no nails and no blood on the corpus. The Savior looks down on the sea and the fishermen he knew in love.
(Original painting is at the Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, Scotland)