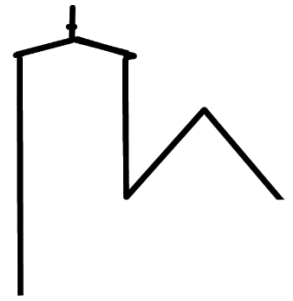


# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue  
Peoria, Illinois 61606



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

27 March 2022

Ten O'clock

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**EVERLASTING GOD, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keeps us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

## GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

### THE PREPARATION

### WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Alan Willadsen

**One:** *In Jesus Christ, there is a new creation.*

**All:** **Everything old has passed away. Everything has become new.**

**One:** *This newness is from God, who has reconciled us through Jesus Christ.*

**All:** **Rejoice and be glad! Everything has become new.**

#### \*THE HYMN

#### For the Healing of the Nations

*St. Thomas*

**1. For the healing of the nations,  
Lord we pray with one accord;  
For a just and equal sharing  
Of the things the earth affords;  
To a life of love in action  
Help us rise and pledge our word.**

**3. All that kills abundant living,  
Let it from the earth be banned;  
Pride of status, race or schooling,  
Dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
May we hallow life's brief span.**

**2. Lead us forward into freedom;  
From despair your world release,  
That, redeemed from war and hatred,  
All may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
Fear will die and hope increase.**

**4. You, Creator God, have written  
Your great name on humankind;  
For our growing in your likeness,  
Bring the life of Christ to mind,  
That by our response and service,  
Earth its destiny may find.**

Text: Fred Kaan, 1963

Music: John Francis Wade, 1861

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

O God, when we keep silence about our sin, we waste away with regret and guilt; we feel your hand upon us, and our strength dries up. And so, we acknowledge our sin to you, holding nothing back, for you are a hiding place for us; we trust in you to preserve us. Forgive us and reclaim us, we pray.

**\*TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**\*KYRIE**

John Merbecke



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

**\*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:** Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

**\*PSALTER**

Psalm 39

*Winchester Old*

1. How happy they the Lord forgives,  
Whose sin is put away;  
To whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
In whom no guile holds sway!

2. I held my tongue, my bones dried up  
I groaned day in, day out;  
Your hand weighed down, my flesh was dry  
As in mid-summer drought.

3. Then I acknowledged all my sin,  
Confessed it openly;  
I said, 'I will admit my sin,'  
And you, Lord, set me free.

4. You hide me and preserve me, Lord  
In all adversity;  
You strengthen me on every side  
With shouts of victory.

Text: *A New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber  
© 1986, The Church Hymnal Corp. (used and reprinted with permission)  
Music: *Este's Psalmes*, 1592

**EPISTLE:** II Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view<sup>1</sup> we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**GOSPEL:** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with <sup>[b]</sup> the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father<sup>[d]</sup> said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

*The word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

Elder Alan Willadsen

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN

There Is Now a New Creation

Stuttgart

1. Now there is a new creation  
Through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
Peace and reconciliation  
With the God of endless life.

2. Call the lost and found together  
Tell the news to everyone;  
Now the past is gone forever  
And a new life has begun.

3. Wrap the prodigal in welcome;  
Run to greet the wayward child  
All is finished and forgiven;  
Let us now be reconciled.

4. There is now a new creation  
Through the grace of Jesus Christ.  
Sing with thanks and adoration,  
To the God of endless life!

Text: David Gambrell, 2009  
Music: Witt's Psalmody Sacra, 1715

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(affirming together)*

*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

## The Secret of Christ

*Richard Shephard*

For a long time I have held my peace, but now will I speak. I will lead the blind in a way they know not, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn their darkness into light, and I will not forsake them. And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God; and on either side of the river was there a tree of life, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Help us, Lord, to persevere in prayer with minds awake and thankful hearts, that we may share the secret of Christ with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage, following in the steps of Jesus, our Master and our friend. Amen.

## 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

### Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

*Detroit*

"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: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969  
Music: The Kentucky Harmony, 1820

### \*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

### God Be with You

*R. Vaughan Williams*

### \*POSTLUDE

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Elder Alan Willadsen**, *Guest Preacher and Worship Leader*  
**The Choir of Westminster Church**  
**Dr. J. Douglas McQueen**, *Guest Organist*  
**Elder Larry Hicks**, *Video Production*

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A **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDE** prepared by the Presbyterian Outlook is available in the Narthex. We encourage you to use this guide as part of your personal Lenten Discipline.

**OUR THANKS** to Elder Alan Willadsen for filling in while Pastor Clark-Jones is away visiting family. **ALSO**, thanks to Dr. J. Douglas McQueen for presiding at the organ this morning.

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**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. Chrysostom*

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**OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS**





**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)***