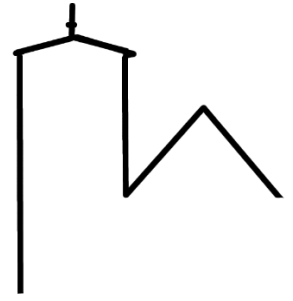


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

23 October 2022

Ten O'clock

O GOD, who alone can probe the depths of the heart, you hear the prayer of the humble and justify the repentant sinner. Grant us the gift of humility, that we may see our own sins clearly and refrain from judging our neighbor. We make our prayer through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, 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, PC(USA).

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Adagio from Symphony V

Charles Marie Widor

WELCOME AND CHURCH CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *It is the Holy Spirit that gives us visions and dreams of the kingdom of heaven.*

All: **Pour out your Spirit on us, O Lord.**

One: *Be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God.*

All: **We will glorify God forever and ever.**

***THE HYMN IN PROCESSION 288**

Ellacombe

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

**1. I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad
And built the lofty skies,
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command
And all the stars obey.**

**2. I sing the goodness of the Lord
That filled the earth with food,
God formed the creatures with a word
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed
Where e'er I turn my eyes,
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the skies!**

3. There's not a plant or flower below
 But makes thy glories known,
 And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
 By order from thy throne:
 While all that borrows life from thee
 I ever in thy care,
 And everywhere that we can be,
 Thou, God art present there.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1715
 Music: *Gesangbuch der Herzogl*, 1784

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

SOVEREIGN GOD, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. We celebrate our achievements and look down on our neighbors. We boast about our virtues and deny the worth of others. Forgive us, God of grace. Guide us to see your vision and dream your dreams, that we might follow the path you have set before us in Christ Jesus.

***TIME FOR 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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad,
and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain^[a] for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
25 I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army that I sent against you.
26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
28 Then afterward
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
29 Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days I will pour out my spirit.
30 I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns
of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the
great and terrible day of the Lord comes. 32 Then everyone who calls on the name
of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those
who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom
the Lord calls.

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

***THE PSALTER**
(Hymnal Nr. 200)

Psalm 65

Christus, der ist mein Leben

1. To bless the earth God sends us
From heaven's abundant store.
The waters of the spring time,
Enriching it once more.

2. The seed by God provided
Is sown o'er hill and plain,
And then come gentle showers
To bless the springing grain.

3. God crowns the year with goodness,
The earth God's mercy fills,
And wilderness is fruitful,
And joyful are the hills.

4. With grain the fields are covered,
The flocks in pastures graze:
All nature joins in singing
A joyful song of praise.

Text: The Psalter, 1912
Music: Melchior Vulpius, 1609

EPISTLE: II Timothy 4:6-8; 16-18

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Word of the Lord ...

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 396**

O For a Closer Walk with God

Caithness

1. O for a closer walk with God
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

2. Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
And drove thee from my breast.

3. The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.

4. So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road,
The leads me to the Lamb.

Text: William Cowper, 1772
Music: Scottish Psalter, 1635

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

from A Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God Jesus proclaimed the reign of God; preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed... We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

We trust in God, the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can 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

**Benedictus es, Domine
The Westminster Choir**

Paul Koch

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; praised and exalted above all forever
Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; praised and exalted above all forever.
Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; praised and exalted above all forever.
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths, and dwellest between the Cherubim; praised
and exalted above all forever. Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom;
praised and exalted above all forever. Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; praise
and exalted above all forever. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SEALING THE WORD

INTERCESSIONS AND SUPPLICATIONS

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER [*we pray 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 131

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

Aberystwyth

**1. Wind who makes all winds that blow
Gusts that bend the saplings low,
Gales that heave the sea in waves,
Stirrings in the mind's deep caves.
Aim your breath with steady power
On your church this day, this hour,
Raise, renew the life we've lost.
Spirit God of Pentecost.**

**2. Fire who fuels all fires that burn -
Suns around which planets turn
Beacons marking reefs and shoals,
Shining truth to guide our souls -
Come to us as once you came:
Burst in tongues of sacred flame!
Light and power, might and strength
Fill your church, its breadth and length.**

**3. Holy Spirit, wind and flame
Move within our mortal frame.
Make our hearts an altar pyre,
Kindle them with your own fire.
Breathe and blow upon that blaze
Till our lives, our deeds and ways,
Speak that tongue which every land
By your grace shall understand.**

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1983
Music: Joseph Parry, 1879

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Nunc Dimittis in B-flat

C. Villiers Stanford

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HANDS, OPEN MINDS

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Denise M. Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
The Westminster Choir
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA and this celebration of the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray this service will be a blessing to all who participate. We are also live-streamed on the world wide web at www.westminsterpeoria.org. The webcast is covered by permissions granted by One License A 726060 for the use of musical portions of the service as well as to broadcast all music in the service with permission of the various publishers.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR is funded, in part, by a generous grant from the Gretchen R. Iben Trust for the Arts.

A REMINDER. The Covid pandemic caused us to delete the “offertory” from the order of worship and replace it with ‘the gift of music.’ However, just because we do not currently pass the plate does not mean we don’t need your weekly support of Westminster Church. Remember to bring your envelope or check and place it in the offering plate which is on the table in the Narthex as you exit the service each Sunday morning. Thanks for your faithfulness.

SET ASIDE Sunday evening, November 6 for the next concert in the Iben Series which features Lumiere, the spectacular chamber choir whose conductor and musical director is Dr. John Jost, retired Director of Choral Activities at Bradley University. This young choir has established itself as a premier musical organization in Central Illinois. There is a \$10 charge (students \$5) for this concert. Come and be blest with an evening of music that includes some wonderful Brahms.

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*



SUNDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2022

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WESTMINSTER CHURCH

A Presbyterian Church, USA
in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue + Peoria Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org