



SUNDAY, 22 JANUARY 2023

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

WESTMINSTER CHURCH

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

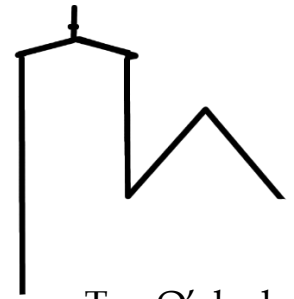
1420 West Moss Avenue + Peoria Illinois 61606

*[www.westminsterpeoria.org](http://www.westminsterpeoria.org)*

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue

Peoria, Illinois 61606



## THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

22 January 2023

Ten O'clock

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**ALMIGHTY GOD**, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*from the Book of Common Worship, PC(USA).*

## GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

**PREPARATION**

**Partita on "Herr wie du willst"**

*Georg Böhm*

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Rev. Clark-Jones**

**One:** *The Lord is our light and our salvation!*

**All:** **Why should we be afraid? What have we to fear?**

**One:** *With joy let us sing and make music before our God.*

**All:** **We celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.**

**\*THE HYMN 463**

**Holy God, We Praise Your Name**

*Grosser Gott, wir loben dich*

**1. Holy God, we praise your name,  
Lord of all, we bow before you;  
All on earth your sceptre claim,  
All in heaven above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain,  
Everlasting is your reign.**

**2. Hark, the glad celestial hymns  
Angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord;  
Holy, holy, holy Lord!**

**3. All apostles join the strain  
As your sacred name they hallow;  
Prophets swell the glad refrain,  
And the blessed martyrs follow,  
And from morn to set of sun,  
Through the church the song goes on.**

**4. Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit Three we name you,  
While in essence only one;  
Undivided God we claim you.  
And adoring bend the knee  
While we own the mystery.**

**Text:** Ignaz Franz, 1774

**Music:** *Allemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1774

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**GOD OF LIGHT, we live in the darkness of despair: worried about our lives, concerned for our health, fearful that we are lost from you. The yoke of our burdens lies heavy upon us: our unwillingness to forgive, our fears of one another, our reluctance to share what we have, our divisions and quarrels. We long to turn from the dark and live in the light. We yearn to leave what is evil and follow the paths of righteousness. Shine the light of your love upon us and transform us with your love, that your promised realm may draw near.**

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

**\*KYRIE**

Tom Clark-Jones



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**

Tom Clark-Jones



Glo - ry be 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 ev - er shall be. world with - out  
end. A - men. A - - - - men.

## HEARING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:1-4**

<sup>9</sup>But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

... *The Word of the Lord*

... **Thanks be to God**

#### **\*THE PSALTER**

#### **Psalm 40**

*St. Anne*

**1. Great things, indeed, O Lord my God;  
Are they that you have done;  
How great your wonders and your plans;  
Who is like you? Not one.**

**2. If only I could tell your deeds,  
But who can know them all?  
You ask no sacrifice or gift,  
But ears to hear your call.**

**3. Burnt-offering you have not required  
And therefore, for my part,  
I said, "I come to do your will;  
Your word is in my heart."**

**4. Your righteousness before your own  
I have been bold to show;  
Nor did I yet restrain my lips  
And that, O Lord, you know.**

**Text: *A New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber  
© 1986, The Church Hymnal Corp., New York, (used and reprinted with permission)  
Music: William Croft, 1708**

#### **EPISTLE: I Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to

Christ.” <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

<sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

<sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23**

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— <sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

SERMON

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN 126

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

*St. Agnes*

**1. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove  
With all thy quickening powers,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
In these cold hearts of ours.**

**2. In vain we tune our formal songs,  
In vain we strive to rise,  
Hosannas languish on our tongues  
And our devotion dies.**

3. Dear Lord, and shall we ever live,  
At this poor dying rate?  
Our love so faint, so cold to thee,  
And thine to us so great!

4. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove,  
With all thy quickening powers;  
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love,  
And that shall kindle ours!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707  
Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 1866

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

from *A Brief Statement of Faith, PC (USA)*

**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.**

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

**THE GIFT OF MUSIC**

**Choose Something Like A Star**

*Randall Thompson*

We are sorry we cannot reprint the text of this anthem. The poetry of Robert Frost is carefully controlled by his estate and heirs, and is not available for reprints in this situation. Randall Thompson (1899-1984) wrote a set of seven choral pieces with texts of Robert Frost in 1959 for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town of Amherst, Massachusetts. The work here presented uses the image of the star as that eternal goal of pushing forward into an unknown future. It is not sacred in any way, but its imagery and the use of the star in particular make it a natural for the Epiphany season of the church. Following the ideal of the star brings humanity blessings and encouragement. Let it speak to you. If it is too secular, we apologize. We all love the music very much!

## 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 67

**Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning**

*Morning Star*

1. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
2. Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!
3. Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion,  
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration.  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor

Text: Reginald Heber, 1811  
Music: James Proctor Harding, 1892

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION    God be with you till we meet again

*R. Vaughan Williams*

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## LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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

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WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA and this celebration of the third Sunday after the Epiphany. We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and pray this service will be a blessing to all who participate.

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THE GRETCHEN R. IBEN SERIES presents "Jazz meets the Spiritual" on Sunday afternoon, February 5 and four. The Westminster Jazz Ensemble under David Hoffman join with Jamika Welch, vocalist and Sharon Reed and the Heritage Ensemble for an uplifting afternoon of faith that swings! Come, join us and bring your friends! A sure to be great program.

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OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

# EPIPHANY

