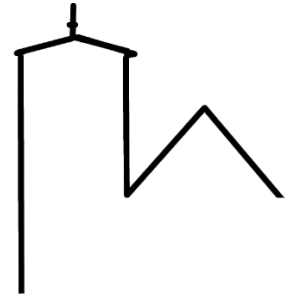


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

29 January 2023

Ten O'clock

ALMIGHTY GOD, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice and perseverance in striving for peace, that by our words and deeds the world may see the promise of your kingdom, revealed in 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

Vom Himmel kamm der Engle Schar

Heinrich Buttstedt

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Clark-Jones

One: *When we love God by serving others,*

All: **we fulfill the greatest of the commandments.**

One: *When we share bread with the hungry poor,*

All: **then light shall break forth like the morning.**

One: *When we bring in those who are cast out,*

All: **then righteousness shall go before us.**

One: *When we are foolish to believe that love can save the perishing,*

All: **then the message of the cross is being lived and proclaimed.**

One: *When we stand on our heads to understand the wisdom of God.*

All: **then the poor are raised up, the low ones lifted high.**

One: *When we extend mercy.*

All: **then we receive mercy.**

One: *So, let the one who boasts,*

All: **boast in the Lord!**

One: *For God is the source of your life, in Christ Jesus.*

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad!**

1. Lord, you give the great commission
"Heal the sick and preach the Word,"
Lest the church neglect its mission,
And the gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose
With renewed integrity,
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

2. Lord, you call us to your service
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us
Closer in community;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

3. Lord, you make the common holy,
"This my body, this my blood,"
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
Daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us
Share your children's liberty;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

4. Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive,"
Yet we hoard as private treasure
All that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
To a just society;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

5. Lord, you bless with words assuring
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
May we serve as you intend,
And, amid the cares that claim us,
Hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Text: Jeffery W. Rowthorn, 1978
Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*praying together*)

You have told us what is good, O God. Your hopes for us are clear. And yet we live as though it is unclear what you would have us do. We live as though we're not the recipients of grace upon grace. We have withheld what is not our own. We have judged where it was not our place. We have sinned by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We know that we have sinned. We seek your forgiveness and your reconciliation and strength that we may follow in the way you would have us go. Cleanse us and guide us.

*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.

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HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,

for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

... *The Word of the Lord*

... Thanks be to God

***THE PSALTER**

(*Hymnal # 164*)

Psalm 15

Cheshire

1. Lord, who may dwell within your house
Or on your holy hill?
Those who do good and speak the truth,
Whose lives are blameless still.

2. Who have no guile upon their tongues
Nor harm their neighbor's life,
But honor those who fear the Lord
And turn away from strife.

3. Who do no wrong but keep their word
And seek no bribe or gain,
All those who do such things shall live
And safe from harm remain.

EPISTLE: I Corinthians 1:18-31

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. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

... *The Word of the Lord*

... Thanks be to God

SERMON

Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 405

What Does the Lord Require

Sharpthorne

1. What does the Lord require
For praise and offering?
What sacrifice desire,
Or tribute bid you bring?
Do justly, love mercy,
Walk humbly with your God.

2. Rulers of earth, give ear!
Should you not justice know?
Wilt God your pleading hear,
While crime and cruelty grow?
Do justice, love mercy
Walk humbly with your God.

3. How shall our life fulfill God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will With grace to fortify
Then justly, in mercy, We'll humbly walk with God.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1949
Music: Eric Routley, 1968

*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.

You are asked to pass the peace in a manner which is comfortable for you.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Now there lightens upon us

Leo Sowerby

Now there lightens upon us a holy daybreak. Alleluia, Alleluia! Come, come all good people and praise the Lord with gladness. For the Star which we have looked for, shines forth a sign to all men. Alleluia, Alleluia! Now there lightens upon us a holy daybreak. Come, come all good people and praise the Lord with gladness. For the Star which we have looked for, shines forth a sign to all men. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 101

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hamburg

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3. See from his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small,
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707
Music: Lowell Mason, 1824

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

May Christ Support Us

Norman Dello Joio

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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

WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA and this celebration of the fourth 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 WESTMINSTER CHOIR is supported, in part, by a generous grant from the Gretchen R. Iben Fund for the Arts.

THE GRETCHEN R. IBEN SERIES presents "Jazz meets the Spiritual" on Sunday afternoon, February 5 and four. The Westminster Jazz Ensemble under the direction of David Hoffman joins with Jamika Welch, vocalist, for some rousing traditional Spirituals in a Jazz mood. Special guests for this year's Black Heritage concert are Sharon Reed and the Heritage Ensemble! This award winning group founded and directed by Dr. Reed, is dedicated to preserving the Black musical cultural for the whole country and the world to enjoy. The free will offering received at this concert will benefit the Heritage Ensemble and their continuing work. Come, join us and bring your friends! It's sure to be a great program.

*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

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS



SUNDAY, 29 JANUARY 2023

THE FOURTH 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